Imperial Pacific, CBP to ink partnership. PAGE 2
NMI crew shares experience of fighting CA wildfires. PAGE 7

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

75¢

COIN DRIVE
Child volunteers help raise funds for Typhoon Harvey victims during the Carolinian Affairs Office's coin drive last Saturday across the Garapan basketball court.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 187
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2017
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EFFECTIVE SEPT. 30

Minimum wage: $7.05

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI minimum wage will increase again by 50 cents effective Sept. 30, 2017, boosting the minimum wage to $7.05 per hour, up from the $6.55 per hour set last year.

Rabauliman

This is the penultimate, federally mandated increase in the Commonwealth's minimum wage. It will get a 20-cent hike in September 2019 and reach the federal level of 7.25 per hour.

According to Commerce Secretary Mark Rabauliman, this wage increase should not come as a surprise to business owners and employers as everybody has been made aware of the wage increase timeline.

"The ultimate goal is to reach the

See WAGE on Page 4

IPI rep: MCC, Beilida fled

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» IPI shoulders illegal workers' compensation

Representatives of both MCC International and Beilida Overseas (CNMI) Ltd. have reportedly fled the island, according to an unnamed Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC representative.

The representative reportedly told the remaining 40-some illegal Chinese workers that were recruited to build the upcoming casino hotel resort that the two companies have already fled the islands.

See IPI on Page 4

MVA: Take part in Grotto survey

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In the wake of reports that one of the CNMI's most iconic tourist spots, the Grotto in Marpi, is being overwhelmed by the large number of tourists that visit it each day, the public and all stakeholders are being invited to take part in a survey that will look at the site's capacity to accept visitors.

Concepcion

Marianas Visitors Authority executive director Chris Concepcion said the Grotto User Capacity survey will gather information for the purpose of protecting the Grotto's unique features, determine the frequency of usage, and the impact of this usage on the environment.

"This survey will allow regulatory agencies to assess the situation at Grotto, better gauge the environmental impact tourism is

See MVA on Page 4

Cigarettes prices go up

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
NEWS REPORTER

Smoking in the CNMI has just become more expensive.

Cigarette prices went up by as much as $1.20 a pack over the weekend, due in large part to a law that increased the excise tax on cigarettes about three years ago and spread that increase over several years.

The prices went up last Saturday, with many stores on Saipan being given notice of the increase by suppliers a week or a month ago. Still, the price increase caught many by surprise.

The increase was based on Public Law 18-64, which gradually increased the tax on cigarettes. It was signed into law three years ago, in

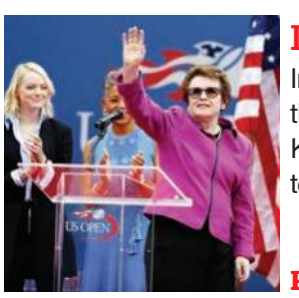
See CIGARETTES on Page 4

10 DAYS BEFORE THE END OF FISCAL YEAR 2017

INSIDE

NATION
Six immigrants are suing the Trump administration over its decision on DACA.
PAGE 15

ASIA
Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi says her country does not fear international scrutiny.
PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE
In the film "Battle of the Sexes," Billie Jean King passes a baton to Emma Stone.
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Local

Imperial Pacific, CBP to ink partnership

With a shared goal of promoting economic growth, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection will sign a memorandum of understanding that will put into effect the Reimbursable Services Program at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and the Saipan Commuter Terminal.

The Reimbursable Services Program allows IPI to engage CBP in the processing of visitors brought in by the Hong Kong-based investment giant into the CNMI.

The MOU signing will take place tomorrow, Sept. 21, at 11am at the CBP conference room at the airport.

CBP, the largest federal law enforcement agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is empowered under Section 481 of the Homeland Security Act, 2002 (as amended) to enter into partnerships with the private sector, state governments, and local governments.

The Reimbursable Services Program, a CBP initiative, is an innovative solution that was designed to expand CBP services for incoming commercial and cargo traffic and international arrivals throughout the continental United States.

Imperial Pacific's partnership with CBP is new in the CNMI.

This joint venture comes on the heels of a revived travel confidence in the Northern Marianas, of which IPI is being credited for its multimillion-dollar investment in the local economy.

IPI, the largest private sector employer in the CNMI, reached out to CBP in February this year for assistance with IPI guests arriving in private jets.

According to CBP, the new agreement increases the agency's ability to provide for enhanced services on a reimbursable basis by creating partnerships with private sector and government entities. Reimbursable services under this authority include "customs, agricultural processing, border security services, immigration inspection, and support services at ports of entry."

With IPI's MOU, CBP will provide for the following: "primary inspections processing, special services requests, extra section(s) inclusive of charters, and unanticipated irregular operation, including diversions."

IPI will fund the cost for these services as stipulated in the Reimbursable Services Program. This will afford IPI's guests, who are accustomed to the comforts of landing in private terminals in other countries such as Singapore, Australia, and Macau, a much favorable entry process for private aircraft passengers arriving in the CNMI.

IPI and its guests understand the importance of the immigration clearance process.

Following the sudden resurgence of travel arrivals into the Northern Marianas, waiting hours at the Saipan airport became a challenge, with arriving passengers waiting between an hour to four hours to be processed for entry.

Over the past two years, arrivals into the islands have made a remarkable uptick. The CNMI is now billed as the third fastest growing tourist destination in the world, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization World Tourism Barometer.

The world's leading consulting organization in hotel, tourism and leisure, Horwath HTL, in a report released in January this year, pointed out that the drastic growth in arrivals has brought a host of issues to the CNMI, in particular the negative effect of some aspects of the overall experience for visitors as a result of infrastructure at the Saipan International Airport "not catching up with visitor arrival growth."

Horwath HTL, which was commissioned by the Marianas Visitors Authority to conduct a feasibility and sustainable study, noted that the resurgence of travel into the islands hit its turning point in 2015—the year when IPI began its Saipan operation—when strong demand from Chinese and Korean markets climbed to unprecedented heights.

With the expected completion of its multimillion-dollar Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel Saipan in Garapan, it is expected that arrivals by private jets will increase 300 percent. ***(PR)***

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SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance September 21, 2017 at 9:30 am at the Mayor of Saipan Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from August 24th, 2017

II. **Public Comments**

III. **Reports**
   1. Administrator
   2. Chair
   3. COMMITTEES
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. **Old Business**
   1. SHEFA on Disability

V. **New Business**
   1. Fall 2017 Application Status

VI. **Executive Session – Appeals (closed)**

VII. **Misc.**

VIII. **Next Meeting**

IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

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TEL.: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEY FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff -v- PEDRO TUDELA BORJA AND RUTH SALUDES BORJA Defendants.	)))))	CIVIL ACTION NO. 15-0137

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 24, 2017, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to following property: Lot no. 010 K 34, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 924 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check no. 010 K 01, dated August 19, 1987, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 87-2909, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 27, 2017, at the hour of 1:30pm, at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of September, 2017:

MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Power outages on Friday, Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled power outages this Friday, Sept. 22, and Saturday, Sept. 23.

The power interruption on Friday is from 2:30pm to 4:30pm and will affect Capital Hill. The purpose of the power interruption is to de-energize the lines to allow CUC line crew to replace a deteriorated power pole on Capitol Hill on Pohnpei Way, near the Department of Commerce.

Areas to be affected include Capitol Hill Rd., Tapochao Rd., partials of Chalan Galaidi, Capitol Hill Homestead, and Isa Drive (Cator Pl., Atbut Dr., Panao Pl., Aluw Pl., Kalaskas Dr., Nanka Ln., Ottot Pl., Cat Claw Pl., Apple Pl., Egigi Dr., Nosa Ln., Dulili Ln., Gaga Karisu Dr., Gagatasi Ln., IfetDr., and Yogga Ln.)

Water wells to be affected: CH-1, CH-2, CH-3, and TP-1.

On Saturday, the power outage will last from 5:30am to 10:30am and will affect Kagman. The outage is intended to allow CUC line crew to replace a deteriorated power pole on Kagman Rd. Areas to be affected include Kagman Homestead 1,2,3, and phase 4.

Water services to Kagman, Papago, and Upper San Vicente will also be interrupted during the power interruption; however, all services should be restored after the power is re-energized.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center at 664+4282. ***(CUC)***

DPL holds land use plan public hearing for Saipan

The Department of Public Lands is holding a public hearing tonight for Saipan residents about a land use plan it wants to produce within a year.

The public hearing will take place at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, from 6pm to 7:30pm. Anyone who has who has issues, concerns, comments, or any reactions to the plan may submit their comments.

"I would like to invite our stakeholders to go to the public hearing and look at the proposed land use plan and submit their comments to our office," said acting DPL secretary Greg Deleon Guerrero. Deleon Guerrero is the director of the Compliance Division at DPL.

Those unable to attend the public hearing may download a stakeholder survey from http://www.dpl.gov.mp/land-use-plan-resources/ and submit the completed survey to rreyes@ssfmcnmillc.com or jhart@chpmaui.com before Sept. 29, 2017.

A public hearing for the Northern Islands would be held tomorrow at the Northern Islands Mayor's Office, Bldg. 1345 on Capital Hill, from 6pm to 7:30pm.

DPL has been conducting public hearings for the land use plan since Monday, with Rota stakeholders kicking off the meetings and public hearings for Tinian and Aguiguan stakeholders the following day. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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Car crashes are a leading cause of death for children 1 to 13 years old. Many times deaths and injuries can be prevented by proper use of car seats, boosters, and seat belts.

Child Passenger Safety Week

September 17 - 23, 2017

There are many car seat choices on the market. Use the information below to help you choose the type of car seat that best meets your child's needs.

Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, choose a seat that fits in your vehicle, and use it every time.	Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions (check height and weight limits) and read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or lower anchors and a tether, if available.	To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.	Keep your child inthe back seat at least through age 12.

REAR-FACING CAR SEAT

Birth – 12 Months
Your child under age 1 should always ride in a rear-facing car seat. There are different types of rear-facing car seats:

- Infant-only seats can only be used rear-facing.
- Convertible and All-in-one car seats typically have higher height and weight limits for the rear-facing position, allowing you to keep your child rear-facing for a longer period of time.

1 – 3 Years
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

FORWARD-FACING CAR SEAT

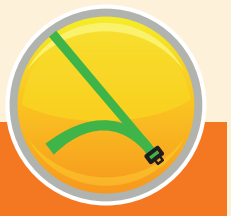
1 – 3 Years
Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. It's the best way to keep him or her safe. Your child should remain in a rear-facing car seat until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the rear-facing car seat, your child is ready to travel in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether.

4 – 7 Years
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

BOOSTER SEAT

4 – 7 Years
Keep your child in a forward-facing car seat with a harness and tether until he or she reaches the top height or weight limit allowed by your car seat's manufacturer. Once your child outgrows the forward-facing car seat with a harness, it's time to travel in a booster seat, but still in the back seat.

8 – 12 Years
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.



SEAT BELT

8 – 12 Years
Keep your child in a booster seat until he or she is big enough to fit in a seat belt properly. For a seat belt to fit properly the lap belt must lie snugly across the upper thighs, not the stomach. The shoulder belt should lie snugly across the shoulder and chest and not cross the neck or face. Remember: your child should still ride in the back seat because it's safer there.

National Seat Check and Family Fun Day

September 23, 2017 • 9:00am - 12 noon • Civic Center, Susupe

Car Seat Inspection Stations are located at:

DPS-Highway Safety Office • DPS Traffic Section • Garapan Fire Station
Koblerville Fire Station • Kagman Fire Station • Tinian Traffic Section • Rota Traffic Section

CNMI Department of Public Safety.
For more information call:
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TINIAN 433-9222/2041
ROTA 532-9433/9530
www.dps.gov.mp

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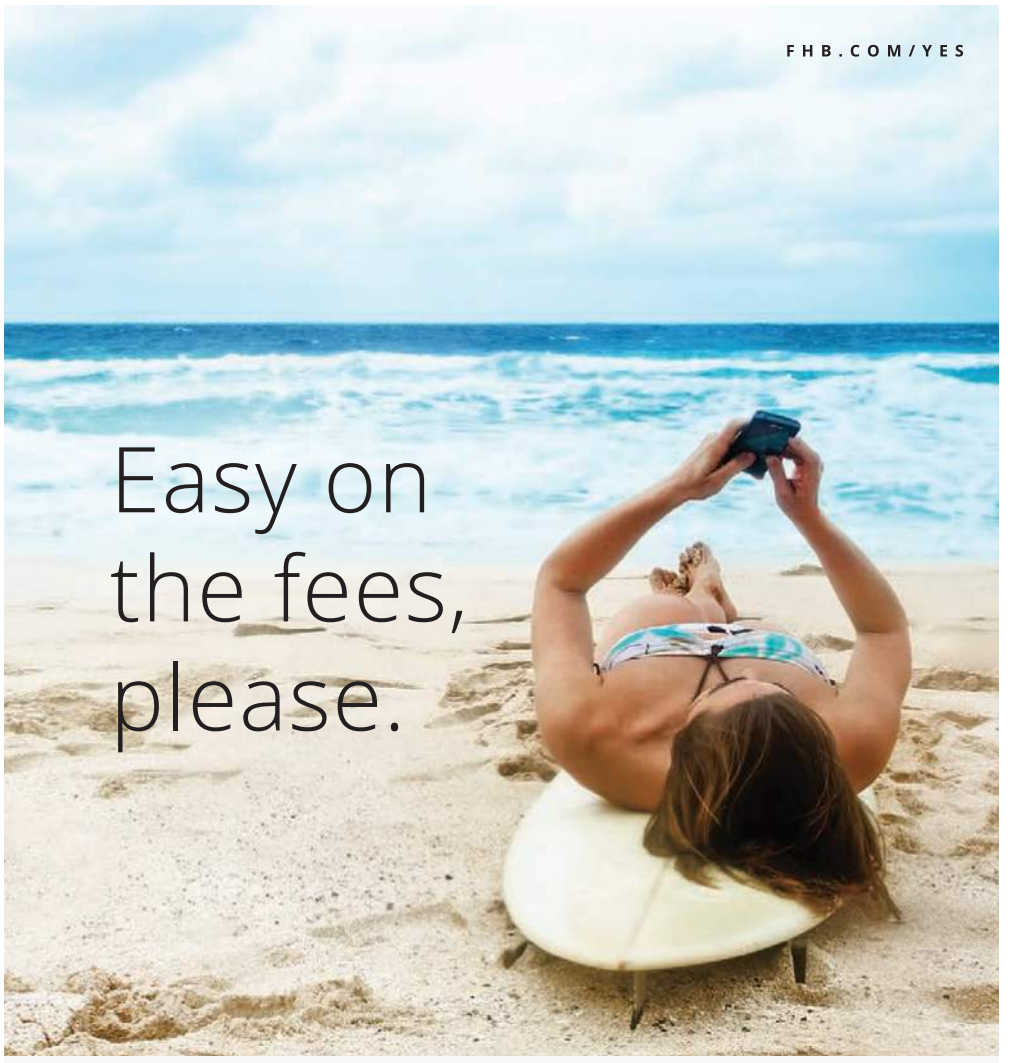

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2 Does not apply to access through Quicken® or QuickBooks®. Optional Online Banking Features may incur additional fees. See Terms & Conditions of FHB Online Services for more details. Mobile Banking: You must be enrolled in FHB Online and have a mobile device with Internet to use FHB Mobile Banking. Device must have a rear-facing camera with autofocus to use Mobile Deposit. See FAQs in the "Mobile Deposit" section of fhb.com/mobile for Mobile Deposit eligibility requirements. Checks deposited via Mobile Deposit are treated as deposits by mail for funds availability purposes. See Terms and Conditions of FHB Online services for full details. Text banking not available in Guam or CNMI.

IN PROPST'S ETHICS COMPLAINT

Espaldon faces possible discharge

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guam Legislature's Committee on Ethics and Standards has finished its investigation of Sen. James V. Espaldon and came out yesterday with recommendations that it submitted to the Office of Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz.

Among the recommendation is stripping the Guam senator of his leadership positions. However, should the Guam Legislature feel the need, he may be discharged altogether.

The investigation was in response to Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) filing an ethics complaint against Espaldon for his role in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s controversial engine generator procurement earlier this year.

The Guam Legislature's Committee on Ethics and Standards had recommended yesterday that Espaldon be officially censured, stripped of his leadership positions for the remainder of the Guam legislative term, and require him and his staff to attend a 16-hour refresher course on ethics.

According to Guam Ethics Committee chair Sen. Fernando Barcinas Esteves, the findings of the committee "[does] not reflect on Espaldon's person [nor] character."

He added that the recommendations of the committee is subject to a floor vote of at least 10 in support to adopt the recommendations of the committee or to take any other disciplinary action, including suspension or discharge.

Propst filed the ethics complaint last May 16, 2017.

CUC had awarded General Pacific Services Marianas Inc. a contract for the procurement of an engine worth about $11 million. Espaldon acted as a spokesman and a representative for the GPSM contract. According to Guam's Resolution 239-34, the committee found that Espaldon "in fact knew and in any event should have known" of conflicts of interest with GPSM vice president Phil Roberto and CUC board chair Adelina Roberto. Amelia Toelkes acts as president for GPSM.

The resolution further stated that Espaldon "failed to consider the public's perception of his actions" and that his actions "reflect poorly upon his office and upon his colleagues."

MVA

From Page 1

having on the site, see what needs to be done to control access to the Grotto, and see what needs to be done to preserve the site for posterity," said Concepcion.

The survey was released last week, under the auspices of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and MVA.

The Grotto, also called the Blue Grotto of Saipan, is a collapsed limestone cavern filled with turquoise blue water and is famous as a dive and snorkeling spot.

According to Concepcion the site has an average of 17,000 to 30,000 visitors a month.

"So that averages about 566 to 1,000 visitors daily," he said. "It's hard to tell what amount is enough or too much, given the lack of historical data for this particular site. We'll leave that to the environmental experts to determine."

The MVA does have design plans for the renovation and rehabilitation of the Grotto staircase, lookout, restrooms, and pavilions.

"However, funding is our issue," Concepcion said. "With the [budget] cuts the Legislature is proposing [for MVA], we will not be able to afford this project. If DLNR decides to implement a fee, this fee should go toward this project."

He deems it reasonable if DLNR decides to charge a small fee, like $2 to $5 per person to descend the Grotto stairs.

"This will make it easier for our tourism industry stakeholders to swallow and accept. And it'll make Grotto a special site, one that you must pay to see firsthand, one that's worth paying money to see," he said.

"On the other hand, we must make sure that these funds collected by DLNR go strictly toward the maintenance, preservation, and security of the site. Right now, this falls on the MVA to fund, which is unfair in my opinion, since we have no rights to the site whatsoever. The place needs some rehabilitation but the MVA cannot fund it alone with the cuts the Legislature is making to the MVA budget," he added.

Aside from the Grotto, Concepcion said the public should also be concerned about Managaha Island.

"I'm told Managaha receives up to 1,500 visitors on a daily basis. This inevitably has some impact on the marine life and the island itself so the MVA is naturally concerned. [The Department of Public Lands] has jurisdiction over this site so they should have accurate numbers."

"I think a limit of 1,000 visitors a day is reasonable. It'll allow the island to recuperate from the impact it receives every day. And we feel a reasonable increase in the landing fee charged by DPL is long overdue," he added.

He said the MVA cannot over-emphasize the importance of the Grotto capacity survey.

"We encourage the public to take the survey; let your opinions be heard. We need community input to ensure we incorporate all our concerns. Share those thoughts with the appropriate authorities and come up with a plan on how to handle the situation better," Concepcion said.

"The MVA will continue to do our mission of growing the tourism industry in a responsible manner in order to allow a better standard of living for our Commonwealth. We need everyone else to pitch in and do their part to contribute to the success of the tourism industry as a whole," he added.

MVA is currently continuing its educational outreach via the Visitors Channel, through guidebooks, through the Tour Guide Certification Program, and through offshore offices in Japan, Korea, China, Taiwan, and Russia.

IPI

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune learned from a source who refused to be named that IPI is willing to shoulder the compensation for the illegal workers who did not get paid for their work in the last eight months.

It was reported that IPI is willing to pay the workers the minimum wage along with overtime compensation that they are owed, according to the CNMI Department of Labor, plus a plane ticket—provided that they agree to return to China.

The illegal workers are owed over two months worth of construction work as well as overtime compensation, assuming they worked nine hours a day.

The source said the workers reportedly responded that, on top of the amounts that they should have been paid all along, "there must be some additional compensation" for making them wait on the island for nearly half a year.

According to the source, an unnamed IPI representative visited the workers at their barracks yesterday.

The source noted that a previous batch of 200-plus illegal workers under MCC and Suzhou Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, both of which settled with the U.S. Department of Labor, received back pay based on the minimum wage—including overtime pay—as well as liquidated damages and compensation for the recruitment fees the workers paid to come to Saipan.

According to the source, CNMI Labor returned to the illegal Chinese workers' dormitory last night with calculations of how much each worker would receive.

WAGE

From Page 1

$7.25 [federal level]. That was the goal that was set then when [Congress] imposed the minimum wage increase," he said.

He does not expect the minimum wage to stay at that level, coming on the heels of other states in the U.S. mainland also raising the federal minimum wage level.

"A lot of the states have increased their minimum wages and I think Guam is following suit. You would expect the same with the territories at some point. I don't know if it's immediately after we reach the $7.25 or if it will be given some breathing space," Rabauliman said.

The latest minimum wage increase is covered by the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, which amended the Fair Labor Standards Act, increasing the general federal minimum wage since 2010 in American Samoa and the CNMI.

That law carries a provision where minimum rates in these territories will increase by 50 cents an hour each year until they reach the minimum wage level of the U.S.

The Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2007, which was made into law under Public Law 110-28, initially increased the CNMI's minimum wage by 50 cents, from $3.05 an hour to $3.55 an hour. A year after, another 50-cent increase boosted that to $4.05 an hour.

In May 26, 2009, the minimum wage was raised by another 50 cents, boosting it to $4.55 an hour.

On Sept. 30, 2010, the minimum wage increased to $5.05 per hour. Then a new law put off the scheduled minimum wage increase in 2011 and mandated a new timetable for the increases.

In Sept. 30, 2012, the minimum wage increased to $5.55 per hour and that rate stayed the same in 2013.

On Sept. 30, 2014, the minimum wage increased to $6.05 per hour before being delayed again in 2015.

On Sept. 30, 2016, the minimum wage increased to $6.55 per hour.

This year, a new minimum wage of $7.05 an hour is set to be effective next week.

The delays in the wage increases were made at the request of the CNMI. "We skipped some years of increase brought about by our economic depression. The federal [government] helped us alleviate from that pressure, so we had some years of delays," said Rabauliman.

The department is aware that between big and small businesses in the CNMI, the latter will more likely feel the effect of higher operational expenditures.

According to Rabauliaman, the department does not want to lose small businesses and they are encouraged to step forward, speak up about the increases, and be known to the department.

"We want them to know that there are programs and agencies available to assist and see what we can do together. We want to them to step forward because it's hard for the department to know who is struggling and who is not struggling," he said.

By following the wage increases set by law, Rabauliman said the CNMI is showing the rest of Micronesia that economic stability and development is possible for all islands.

"We are in the Micronesian region and our neighboring islands in Palau and Marshall Islands are looking at the economic expansion that the CNMI is experiencing right now because if you go there, their minimum wage is still back in the days where the CNMI used to be," he said.

"I say this with enthusiasm. Increasing our wages, giving people spending power and a good source of income gives the government and people of other islands target goals. At the end of the day, we are all Micronesians and we want to see everybody succeed. That is important to us," he added.

CIGARETTES

From Page 1

September 2014, by the late governor Eloy S. Inos.

The bill was authored by Rep. Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), currently the House speaker, back in 2014.

The law states that an excise tax for cigarettes shall be imposed, from $2 per pack to $2.75 per pack across three years after the bill is enacted. After three years, the excise tax on cigarettes shall increase to $3.75 per pack.

The purpose of the law is to discourage smoking in the CNMI, which results in increased illness and reduction of life expectancy.

According to a cigarette consumer who asked not to be identified, the price of his favorite pack of cigarettes rose by $1.10, while other brands went up by $1.25 a pack. Many smokers went on Facebook to express surprise and dismay at the price increase.

David Maratita, director of Alcohol, Beverage and Tobacco Control at the Department of Commerce, clarified yesterday that the increase is not under the jurisdiction of the ABTC. "I believe that deals with excise tax."

According to the law, 7 percent of the excise taxes collected shall be deposited in a solid waste management revolving fund and will go to solid waste management.

Three percent shall be deposited in a cancer fund special account and reserved for cancer treatment and programs and 50 percent shall be deposited to fund the payment of the Commonwealth's share in the Group Health and Life Insurance benefits and for enforcement.

Currently, many local and federally funded programs are also being implemented to encourage smokers to quit smoking.

According to the CNMI Non-Communicable Diseases & Risk Factor Hybrid Survey Report 2016, adults 25-34 years old have the highest prevalence of smoking.

About 33 percent of men and 17 percent of women currently smoke. Of those smokers, 65 percent are Carolinian, 34.3 percent are Chamorro, and 56.2 percent are other Pacific Islanders. The report also said that 78 percent of smokers report wanting to quit.

Early this month, the Racial Ethnic Approach to Community Health launched a new anti-tobacco campaign, making people aware of the dangers of exposure to secondhand smoke.

According to Racial Ethnic Approach to Community Health project assistant Hee Jae Lee, smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer.

"Your smoking habits are not only harming you but also your loved ones and friends who are around you and inhale your cancer-causing cigarette smoke. Please call the quit line at 323-7848," she said.

Tinian child seat checkpoints

The Tinian Highway Patrol will be doing seatbelt and child seat checkpoints this week.

On Thursday, Sept. 21, 2016, the first checkpoint will be by the Youth Center on the southbound lane on Broadway Road and will commence at 11am and end at 12:15pm. The second setup will be by the baseball field on the eastbound lane on Route 202 and will start at 4pm and end at 5:15pm.

On Friday, Sept. 22, 2016, the first checkpoint will be by the Hofschneider warehouse in Marpo Valley on the westbound lane on Broadway Road and will start at 6am and end at 7:15am. The second setup will be across the Youth Center on the southbound lane on Broadway Road and will start at 11am and end at 12:15pm. The third setup will be by the Tinian Center on the southbound lane on Broadway Road and will start at 4pm and will end at 5:15pm.

On Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017, there will be a courtesy car seat inspection at the Tinian Ace Hardware parking lot from 9am to 2pm. Certified child passenger safety technicians will be available to inspect safety seats to ensure they are correctly installed. This is a free service to the community. The Department of Public Safety encourages parents and caregivers on Tinian to stop by to learn more about proper installation and use of child safety seats and booster seats. ***(PR)***

US Navy awards contract for Marines' relocation to Guam

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded yesterday a $17.9-million firm-fixed price contract to Contrack Watts Inc. of McLean, Va., for the construction of a new waterfront headquarters building at Apra Harbor on Naval Base Guam.

The contract is funded by the government of Japan as part of the International agreement between the United States and Japan.

"For the Marines to effectively execute amphibious operations, a fully capable waterfront facility and associated infrastructure are essential," said officer-in-charge of construction Marianas commanding officer Capt. Dan Turner. "The award of this contract marks yet another critical step forward in the Marine Corps relocation to Guam."

The scope of work for the facility includes reinforced concrete with pile foundations, and all components such as exterior walls, windows, roofing, mechanical and electrical systems appropriate for Guam's earthquake and weather standards. The contract also contains a planned modification for furniture, fixtures and equipment.

Work will be performed at Apra Harbor and is expected to be completed in April 2019. This contract was competitively procured via the Federal Business Opportunities website with two proposals received. ***(USN)***

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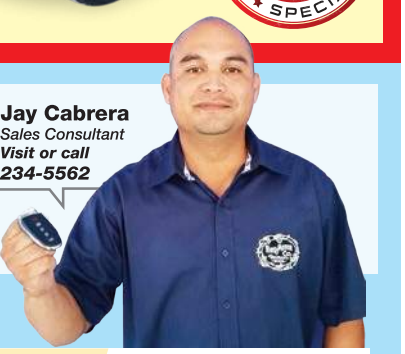

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Transmission: Automatic
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Engine: 2.0 Liter
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Engine: 4.0 Liter
Transmission: Automatic
Est. Mileage: 48832
Color: Magnetic Gray
$18,995

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Stk#EUB03527
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Transmission: Automatic
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Transmission: Automatic
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Dynamic makes progress on customer liabilities

By RICHARD CRAVER
WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL

Dynamic International Airways has made significant progress in reducing its customer financial liabilities since filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, according to a status update Friday.

However, the High Point charter airline has cut its workforce by nearly one-third and continues to face legal attempts to force it into liquidation.

Dynamic also reported it has a new chief executive in Ray Lawlor, who has more than 30 years of aviation industry experience. He also serves as senior vice president of cargo sales and marketing for Swift Air LLC.

The company has eliminated 60 of 192 jobs since filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection July 19. It has plans to add eight pilots and 22 flight attendants as part of expanding services through a new flight strategy that began Friday.

Dynamic reported trimming its customer liability debt from $7.98 million to $1.96 million as of Friday. It projects reducing the debt to $323,659 by mid-October.

At the time of the bankruptcy filing, Dynamic's fleet featured six Boeing 767s serving routes that include New York and Ontario, Calif. International service is to Georgetown, Guyana; Guayaquil, Ecuador; Saipan in Northern Mariana Islands; and Changchun and Nanchang, China. The aircraft can carry 235 passengers using 21 lie-flat business-class seats and 214 economy-class seats.

The airline has ended the Ecuador service because of permitting issue with the Ecuadorian government. It is planning to reduce its service to Guyana from five flights weekly to just one beginning in early October.

Dynamic said its focus will be on an aircraft, crew, maintenance and insurance strategy, known as ACMI, in which it gains business from a third-party vendor that sells flight tickets.

An ACMI carrier receives a flat rate per flight hour. Dynamic said it has agreed to one ACMI contract with Swift Travel Services for flights between Port Au Prince, Haiti, and Santiago, Chile. It is negotiating for a second such contract for flights from Miami to Havana and Santa Clara, Cuba.

Dynamic's bare-bones filing came after Dynamic lost a legal fight in U.S. District Court for the Middle District.

PMC Aviation LLC of Greensboro is owed $1.19 million, representing an arbitration judgment reached in April that Dynamic disputes. Dynamic says its filing was prompted by recent arbitration judgments against the company that it is challenging under the International Commercial Arbitration Act.

PMC claims in its motion for liquidation that Dynamic "is suffering from millions of dollars of continuing losses. ... The debtor has been grossly mismanaged."

Dynamic lists between 200 and 999 creditors, assets between $10 million and $50 million, and liabilities between $50 million and $100 million. The company projects funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors.

PMC's motion is being opposed by unsecured creditor Worldwide Flight Services Inc. of Jamaica, N.Y., which is owed $123,773.

Dynamic's largest unsecured creditor is Air India Inc. at $10.5 million from another arbitration award that Dynamic disputes. B.K.P. Enterprises & Expim International of Greensboro, was awarded a combined $3.49 million arbitration judgment in December that Dynamic also disputes.

Another NMC graduate passes NCLEX

Another Northern Marianas College graduate has joined the list of students who have passed the challenging National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses or NCLEX-RN.

Judith Galang Diaz, who graduated from NMC last May, recently took the exam and passed on her first attempt.

The NCLEX-RN tests individuals' nursing knowledge, skills, and abilities essential to the safe and effective practice of nursing at the entry level. The exam is used by nursing boards in all U.S. states and territories to award nursing licenses.

Diaz

"We are extremely proud of Judith's accomplishment as well as the other nursing students who have been able to reach this important milestone of passing the NCLEX," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

Recent NMC graduates who have also passed the NCLEX include Mika Sablan, Lovely Lopez, Gemmilie Eugenio, YuGeun Oh, Michael Hidalgo, Joy Waldo, and Joshua Tanghal.

"Judith has a bright future in the nursing field and we expect to see great things from her as her educational and professional journey continues," said NMC Nursing Department chair Rosa M. Tudela. "We wish her the best on her future career in health care."

"I chose to pursue my nursing degree to help people and care for them in times of need," said Diaz. "Also, I do believe that with this degree there is a big potential to make a difference in many lives."

"NMC has enhanced my knowledge, skills and abilities to be able to get my degree and pass the NCLEX," Diaz said.

If there is any advice Diaz could give other students who are also preparing to take the NCLEX, it would be to "study hard, focus and manage your time efficiently. Do not stop trying to achieve your goals or dreams in life."

For more information about the NMC Nursing program, contact the NMC Nursing Department at 237-6743 or visit the Nursing Department office in Building C at the NMC As Terlaje campus, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4:30pm. ***(NMC)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/BUSINESS OFFICE- 27

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"CHARGEMASTER, BUSINESS OFFICE, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP17-CHCC/FACILITY-26

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: October 09, 2017 TIME: 1:00PM

"LAUNDRY & LINEN SERVICES, FACILITY, COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
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INVITATION FOR BIDS
2014-CDA-12-IFB

CLOSING DATE: Friday, September 22, 2017 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE FOR AIR CONDITION UNITS"

The scope of work may be picked up at the Commonwealth Development Authority office located on the 2nd floor of the CDA Building, Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/MANUEL A. SABLAN
Executive Director

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

Commonwealth Zoning Special Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, September 21, 2017
5:30PM, CUC Board Conference Room
3rd Floor, Joeten DanDan Commercial Building
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comments (not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)

B. Public Hearings:

1. Enforcement Hearing on Notice of Violation (NOV) # 2017-1050, issued on 5/31/2017, to Castle Project (CNMI) LLC, imposing a fine in the amount of $25,000.00. The Zoning Administrator issued the NOV to Castle Project (CNMI) LLC for violating the terms and conditions of its permit #2016-1360 (issued 9/19/2016) and approved site plan, as required in the permit and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013. Castle Project (CNMI) LLC appeals the NOV and the imposition of penalties by the Zoning Administrator pursuant to Section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.
2. Summary Suspension of Major Site Plan Permit # 2017-0779, issued on 6/2/2017 to Zone D Development Project (Saipan Housing). The Zoning Administrator imposed a summary suspension of Zone D Development Project's (Saipan Housing) permit for the Multifamily Apartment development in Chalan Piao, pursuant to Section 1312 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013, for failing to show the correct dimensions of access way(s) into the property from a public road. Zone D Development Project (Saipan Housing) appeals the Zoning Administrator's summary suspension of its Major Site Plan Permit #2017-0779 pursuant to Section 1406 of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
E. New Business
F. Executive (Closed) Session:
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting
H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

CANCELED

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 17-008
JANITORIAL SERVICES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of Housekeeping and Cleaning Services for the As Terlaje Campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, commencing Tuesday, Aug 30th, 2017 between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bid Packages are due no later than 2:00 p.m., September 29, 2017, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: you may request a copy of the IFB via fax (670) 235-7601 or email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Approved by:

/s/Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement & Property Manager

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Frank M. Rabauliman
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Acting Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Wednesday, October 04, 2017 at 9:30AM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of September 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

II. **PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW**
A. Project: HIMAWARI COMMERCIAL & HOTEL PROJECT
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-090
a) Project Presentation
b) Discussion & Review of Project
c) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Certification of Completeness*

B. Project: SAIPAN VEGAS & E-GAMING PROJECT
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2017-X-098
a) Project Presentation
b) Discussion & Review of Project
c) CRM Permit Application Status Determination, *Certification of Completeness*

III. **OTHER MATTERS**

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**
All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO

NMI crew shares experience of fighting CA wildfires

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's 15-man crew that recently arrived after a five-week deployment that saw them helping fight forest fires in California shared their experiences, saying their short stint taught them a lot of things.

"Our men gained experience, knowledge, and skills. And we are ready to use it the next time this opportunity arises," said Martin Pangelinan.

On behalf of the crew, Pangelinan, 27, talked about their deployment during last Thursday's proclamation signing that designated Oct. 7 to 8 as National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Weekend and Oct. 8 to 14 as Fire Prevention Week.

All 15 are certified Type II U.S. Forest Service Handcrew Firefighters. Eight are CNMI firefighters and seven are civilians. Except for one from Rota, all are from Saipan. Their deployment took place from Aug. 3 to Sept. 8.

Pangelinan said that once they arrived and settled down in California, they met with the crew boss and the squad boss, who briefed them about what they were expected to do.

The following day, the crew immediately started their first assignment.

The crew did 10 days at the Modoc National Forest, then they were diverted to the Six Rivers National Forest for the remaining four days of their assignment.

After completing their first assignment, the crew was given two days of rest, then they went back to the fire line. The second assignment was a continuation of their deployment to the Six Rivers National Forest.

"While we were at the fires, we had the opportunity to mop up, which means to make the site of the fire safe and reduce residual smoke after the fire has been controlled by removing burning material along or near the control line," Pangelinan said.

He said they had the chance to communicate over radios, attend morning briefings, gather information and brief the crew on daily objectives, work on line construction, and read maps and compasses. Pangelinan said they also read the weather, used fire technology such as GPS, and worked with dozers, water tenders, engines, and chippers.

Two members of the crew had the opportunity to work on a firefighter task book.

"Throughout the deployment, our men stayed positive, kept morale high, watched out for each other, and ensured that no injuries or other related issues were sustained," Pangelinan said.

He said many units and resources reached out to the CNMI crew and asked if there was anyone interested in becoming employed by the Forest Service next year. Pangelinan said some crewmembers have expressed an interest in that opportunity.

"They were impressed with our performance," he added.

Pangelinan thanked the Forest Service in California and some people, including Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Commissioner Claudio Norita, for giving them opportunity to expand their skills and knowledge in containing wildland fires in California.

Pangelinan had fought forest fires for eight years in southern California.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS PTSA meeting today

Saipan Southern High School will have a Parent, Teacher, Student Association meeting today, Sept. 20, Wednesday, at the school cafeteria, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. ***(PR)***

Free Service Academy Nights this week

The office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is hosting a series of free Service Academy Nights this week for high school and college students, parents, educators, and others who are interested in learning more about the educational and career opportunities offered by the U.S. military academies, eligibility requirements, and how to apply. These evening workshops will feature presentations by congressional staff and guest speakers, including service academy graduates. Sessions are scheduled as follows:

- Saipan: Wednesday, Sept. 20, American Memorial Park Visitors Center, from 5pm to 7pm
- Rota: Thursday, Sept. 21, Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School, from 5pm to 7pm
- Tinian: Friday, Sept. 22, Tinian Jr./Sr. High School, from 5pm to 7pm

To RSVP or for more information, contact the congressional office at 323-2647 or email kilili@mail.house.gov. ***(PR)***

Important MHS events

Marianas High School will have its first PTA meeting at the counseling office today, Sep.20, starting at 6pm. Agenda includes election of officers; student canteen proposal, etc. Friday, Sept. 22, is half-day for all students. Dismissal is at 12:30pm. The first quarter mid-progress reports will be released from 4pm to 6pm at the E courtyard. ***(PR)***

PTSA meeting for Kagman cluster schools

The Kagman cluster schools will be having a PTSA meeting tomorrow, Sept. 21, 2017, from 5pm to 6pm. Topics to be discussed: School budget proposals, committee support, uniforms, betel nut consequences at the high school level and more! There will be a cake raffle. Call the school at 237-3921 or 664-4100. ***(PR)***

Class of 1987 gears up for reunion

The Class of 1987 will be having its 30th-year class reunion on Saturday, Sept. 23. The reunion is open to any CNMI Class of 1987 graduate, regardless of which high school they graduated from. A Mass in honor of departed classmates will be held at the San Antonio Church on Sept. 23, 2017, at 4pm. The reunion will follow immediately after the Mass, from 5:30pm to 10pm, at the Surf Club (beach side) in Chalan Kanoa, the former Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar and Grill. To purchase a reunion ticket or to get more information, send an email to cnmiclassof87@gmail.comt. ***(PR)***

FOA presents one-act comedies

The Friends of the Arts' first production of the new season, *One-Act Comedy Night*, presents comedies were written by David Ives, Robert Anderson, and Shel Silverstein and will be performed by Cherlyn Cabrera, Harold Easton, Neil Fama, Gios Gozon, Maria Mettao, Deirdre Rosete, Chuck Sayon, Emma Timmons, Rinisa Torres, Kristine Wolf, and Les Wolf. It will be directed by Harold Easton and produced by the Friends of the Arts. It will be staged at the Dolphin Theatre inside the Marianas High School campus, and will run on the evenings of Sept. 22, 23, and 24 at 7pm. Seats can be reserved now. Tickets for non-FOA members will cost $8, while tickets for adult FOA members will cost $6 and students is $4. Seats are limited. Reserve yours tickets by calling Frank Gibson at 287-7476 or by e-mail at flgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on small business taxes

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be offering a free business seminar on Saipan at the Commonwealth Development Authority boardroom tomorrow, Sept. 21, 2017, from 8am to 12pm. The free seminar is called "Everything You Need to Know About Small Business Taxes" and will be presented by the CNMI Division of Revenue & Taxation and CNMI Division of Customs Services. To register, contact the SBDC office at (670) 664-3018 or online by going to_http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events to register. ***(PR)***

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RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS
DISCONNECTION NOTICE
IT&E would like to remind its RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS customers that current billing of accounts are due on or before Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Payments not received by close of business on Sept 20 will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.
To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.
If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service or Business Sales Center – Middle Rd., Gulao Rai office.
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To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:
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Chalan Laulau – up to 5:00pm
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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 · Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9715 · F: (670) 236-9702

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary is seeking a highly motivated individual for the position of:

COMMUNITY SUPERVISON PROVIDER
Announcement # JVA17-016

DUTIES: The successful candidate will work under the supervision of the Drug Court Manager in the Drug Court Division on Saipan which actively monitors drug court participants outside of the drug court setting including conducting home and job visits. All clients contact is documented and visits logged to help encourage positive participant behavior. The duties of this position include, but are not limited to the following:

- Ensures random drug testing and community supervision practices are in accordance with Drug Court policies and procedures;
- Performs all assigned duties relating to cases scheduled for drug court hearings;
- Coordinates criminal background checks for drug court participants;
- Gathers and evaluates data pertinent to individual cases from resource areas like the participants' home, school, church, social agencies, neighborhood contacts, etc.
- Documents facts with respect to the drug court participants' activities, behavior, and quality of adjustment while on supervision;
- Reports investigative findings conducted by assigned Drug Court law enforcement officer (s) to drug court and prepares recommendations for the proper case disposition;
- Appears in drug court hearings with the ability to provide testimony on drug court cases;
- Provides periodic interviews of participants to determine effectiveness of Drug Court mandates, supervision, counseling, etc.
- Maintains ongoing relationship with participants throughout the duration of the program;
- Follows Court policy for monitoring payments ordered by the Drug Court. The payments to be monitored include, but are not limited to, drug court fees, restitution, fine, child supports, etc.;
- Plans office activities, conferences and field visits in connection with investigation and supervision functions;
- Maintains accurate, neat, legible and up to date case records in the prescribed form;
- Attends public relations activities such as community group meetings, conference, panel discussions, and other related forums;
- Responsible for and conducts gender-specific, observed drug testing in accordance with CNMI Drug Court protocols;
- Continually assess and review supervision and drug testing protocols and terms and conditions of supervision regularly to ensure they are still working for the target populations; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS: Candidate must have a high school diploma or equivalent and have obtained a bachelors degree from a recognized college or university in the criminal or behavioral science field. Also, have been the beneficiary of training in law enforcement and be able to write reports.

COMPENSATION AND TENURE: This position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge. The salary range will be $25,000 - $28,000 per annum.

INTERESTED PERSONS may obtain application forms at the OPM offices in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice in Susupe, or at the Superior Court offices on Tinian and Rota. Completed applications, cover letter, and three references should be submitted to:

Human Resources
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670)236-9818
Fax. (670) 236-9702
michelle.guerrero@justice.gov.mp

This internal job announcement will remain open until filled. Also, this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at http://www.justice.gov.mp.

THE CNMI JUDICIARY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER.

Bordallo vows vigilance with Marianas Trench monument

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued the following statement yesterday on the memorandum from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to President Donald Trump recommending changes to national monuments designated by previous presidents. *The Washington Post* published a leaked copy of this memorandum, which the Trump administration has not made public to date.

Since Trump's executive orders directing the Interior and Commerce departments to review designated marine national monuments, Bordallo has sought to safeguard the Marianas Trench marine monument and demand transparency from the Trump administration:

■ June 29 letter to Zinke and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross supporting the Marianas Trench marine monument's current boundaries, as originally designated by President George W. Bush in early 2009.

■ July 18 letter with 21 Democratic Senate and House colleagues requesting additional time for public comment on the Commerce Department's review of the Marianas Trench marine monument, which was originally just 30 days. The Commerce Department agreed to extend the public comment period on Aug. 29.

■ July 25 letter with 64 House Democrats urging the Trump administration to maintain protections for the Marianas Trench, other marine national monuments, and designated national marine sanctuaries.

■ Sept. 8 letter with 26 House Democrats requesting that Trump make public the memo he received from Zinke outlining recommendations for the future of national monuments pursuant to Executive Order 13792.

"I am pleased that the Interior Department, reportedly, has not recommended that President Trump disband the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. The designation of the Marianas Trench marine monument during the Bush administration underwent a rigorous review process, including an extensive public comment that led to positive considerations for traditional fishing and cultural practices. The people of Guam deserve transparency so it is unfortunate that we are learning of this administration's proposed decision through the media. Earlier this month, 26 of my Democratic colleagues and I asked the President to make this 'secret' memo public to give clarity and certainty to the American people about the future of their national monuments.

"While this recent revelation is encouraging, the Marianas Trench is not in the clear just yet. I am watching closely for the Commerce Department's separate review of marine national monuments due to be finalized by the end of October."

In addition to the Interior Department's review, marine national monuments like the Marianas Trench are under review by the Commerce Department, per Trump's offshore energy executive order. Bordallo has made clear to the Trump administration that the people of Guam want their Marianas Trench monument, and its marine wildlife, to remain protected. ***(PR)***

Northern Marianas Humanities Council
Navigating the Human Experience

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Program Officer
Northern Marianas Humanities Council

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council) is inviting dynamic, motivated, and self-driven individuals with strong interest in the humanities to submit an employment application for the position of Program Officer.

The Program Officer is responsible for developing and implementing a variety of humanities programs and events and coordinating the Council's Community Grants program under the supervision of the Council's executive director. A detailed description of the Program Officer's duties may be obtained from the Council's office in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai or from the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

Applicants for this position must possess: (1). strong analytic, writing and communication skills; (2). knowledge of grants writing and grants administration; (3). the ability to work effectively with people from diverse backgrounds; (4). a working knowledge of NMI history and of current political, social and economic issues confronting the local community; (5). basic computer skills including knowledge of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint; and (6). the ability to articulate the Council's mission to a wide range of audiences.

Applicants must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) in a humanities discipline from an accredited post-secondary institution. The salary range is from $35,000 to $40,000 depending on qualifications and experience. Benefits are set forth in the Council's Personnel Policy Manual.

Interested individuals are invited to send an application package including: (1). letter of interest; (2). detailed résumé; (3). a writing sample (500-800 words on a humanities topic of your choice); and (4). the names and addresses of three references to Scott Russell, Executive Director, Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Box 506437, Saipan, MP 96950. Complete application packages must be received by Council staff on or before 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2017. For more information about this employment opportunity please contact Council staff at 235-4785.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is an equal opportunity employer.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, DR-4235-MP
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

2014 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Standard State Mitigation Plan Update
RFP17-GOV-213

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the CNMI Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors/consultants to update the 2014 Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Standard State Mitigation Plan (2014 CNMI SSMP).

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The project package will be available beginning September 20, 2017 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan or via email. Please request project package via email attention: Leona DLG. Sablan, leona.cip@gmail.com or Antonette DLG. Norita, anorita.hm@gmail.com. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held at 10:00 a.m. on October 10, 2017 at the Office of the Governor's conference room in Capitol Hill.

Questions about this request for proposal shall be addressed to the HMGP Office attention: Leona DLG. Sablan, in writing via e-mail: leona.cip@gmail.com or facsimile (670) 664-2408 no later than 4:00 p.m., ChST, October 12, 2017.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. A contractor that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications and experience on similar projects	30%
2.	Work load and resources to accomplish work	10%
3.	Project Approach & Schedule	10%
4.	Cost	50%

Performance time for completion of this project is 180 calendar days upon issuance of notice to proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract price and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top 3 ranked contractors. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified contractor to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP17-GOV-213 2014 CNMI Standard State Mitigation Plan Update**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, October 18, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, October 18, 2017 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, October 18, 2017 and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than October 27, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement and Supply

Another $1.5M for Saipan jet bridges

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is receiving an additional $1,531,825 in federal funding to replace three passenger loading bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The money, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) yesterday, is being added to the $3,761,807 announced in July in response to higher than expected bids submitted for the work.

Total funding for the three jet bridges is now $5,293,632.

"First-class airports cost money to build and maintain," Sablan said. "And with tourism as the main driver of our economy, the Northern Marianas has to provide a first-class visitor experience that is comfortable, convenient, and safe from the moment our guests step off their plane to the moment they depart.

Sablan

"Today's investment of federal funds will help ensure that tourists and traveling residents, as well, have a good travel experience."

The funding going to the CPA comes through the Federal Aviation Administration.

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives approved $16.6 billion for the FAA in fiscal year 2018, a $153-million increase over this year's appropriation.

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport is federally designated as a small-hub primary airport, which makes it eligible to share in these funds that Congress provides to the FAA.

"Without this investment of federal dollars," said Sablan, "small-hub airports—like Saipan's and others around our country—would find it difficult to keep up with the multi-million dollars costs of keeping facilities modernized and in good repair."

Small-hub airports handle about 9 percent of total U.S. passenger traffic, but receive 14 percent of federal airport improvement monies. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-037

CONSULTANCY SERVICES - REPLACEMENT OF 1 ENGINE SYSTEM - SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced entities for the Consultancy Services including procurement support, project management, engineering and design services of the Replacement of 1 Engine System (No. 8 –10 to13 MW, capacity) at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Consultant shall have a minimum of ten (10) years of verifiable experience and a track record of designing, modification and installation of diesel fuel or dual fuel power plants, among other attributes noted in the RFP documents.

The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission CPUC.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and scope-of-service will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at Power Plant Administration Office in Lower Base, Saipan on **September 19, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal and hence the attendance of the pre-proposal meeting and site visit is mandatory.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-17-037– Consultancy Services - Replacement of 1 Engine System"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 20, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Executive Director via email william.gilmore@cugov.org and Venugopal Prabhakara, Utility Coordinator for Power via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-002

KAGMAN WATERLINE & BOOSTER STATION REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

General Description: This work consists of replacing the existing Kumoi booster station and relocating it to the Chacha and Kagman Road intersection. It also includes the rehabilitation of an existing deep well, the installation of a new 6" PVC distribution, and the installation of a new 8" PVC transmission waterline along Kagman Road. It will also involve the reconnection of existing customers onto new or existing distribution lines within the project area.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from the USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 5, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both the Pre-Bid Conference and the Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-002, Kagman Waterline and Booster Station Rehabilitation Project"* to the **CUC Procurement & Supply Office**, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 26, 2017** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer- via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nick Schreiner, Water-Wastewater, Engineer–via email address nick.schreiner@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid documents, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-001

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 & 2018

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017 & 2018. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

- *OMB Circular A-133*
- *Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States*
- *Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)*
- *Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)*

The date of contract award will be no later than November 17, 2017. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2018 (FY17) & 2019 (FY18). Auditors are responsible to review all the 2017 & 2018 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-18-001, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2017 & 2018**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **October 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 10, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. , CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Antonio Castro, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address antonio.castro@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Trump's words of praise encourage dictators to abuse

The world looks to America for leadership on human rights. When America's leader advocates forms of torture like waterboarding, supports attacks on journalists or gives police the OK to rough up criminal suspects, leaders of other countries pay heed. President Donald Trump's penchant for off-the-cuff, flippant remarks reverberates abroad as encouraging human rights abusers.

When Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, a former general who seized power after a 2013 coup, visited Washington in April, Trump heaped praise on him: "He's done a fantastic job in a very difficult situation." In a subsequent meeting in Saudi Arabia, Trump even complimented the dictator's shoes.

If flattery was somehow designed to make Sissi ease up on abuses, it didn't work. Human Rights Watch issued a 63-page report last week saying the Egyptian president has given a "green light to torture with impunity" and that the country suffers from an "epidemic" of abuses. Egypt has, for decades, had a highly problematic human rights record. Billions of dollars in U.S. aid have always come with an admonishment that the record must improve. Trump doesn't bother.

Trump praised Philippines leader Rodrigo Duterte in an April 29 phone call, noting Duterte's "unbelievable job on the drug problem."

Human Rights Watch holds Duterte responsible for a "murderous" campaign in which police have been encouraged to execute drug dealers on the streets. As many as 7,000 have died in the police campaign. Duterte claimed to have personally thrown a drug suspect out of a helicopter to his death.

Duterte once compared and contrasted himself with Adolf Hitler, saying, "Hitler massacred three million Jews. Now, there is three million drug addicts. I'd be happy to slaughter them."

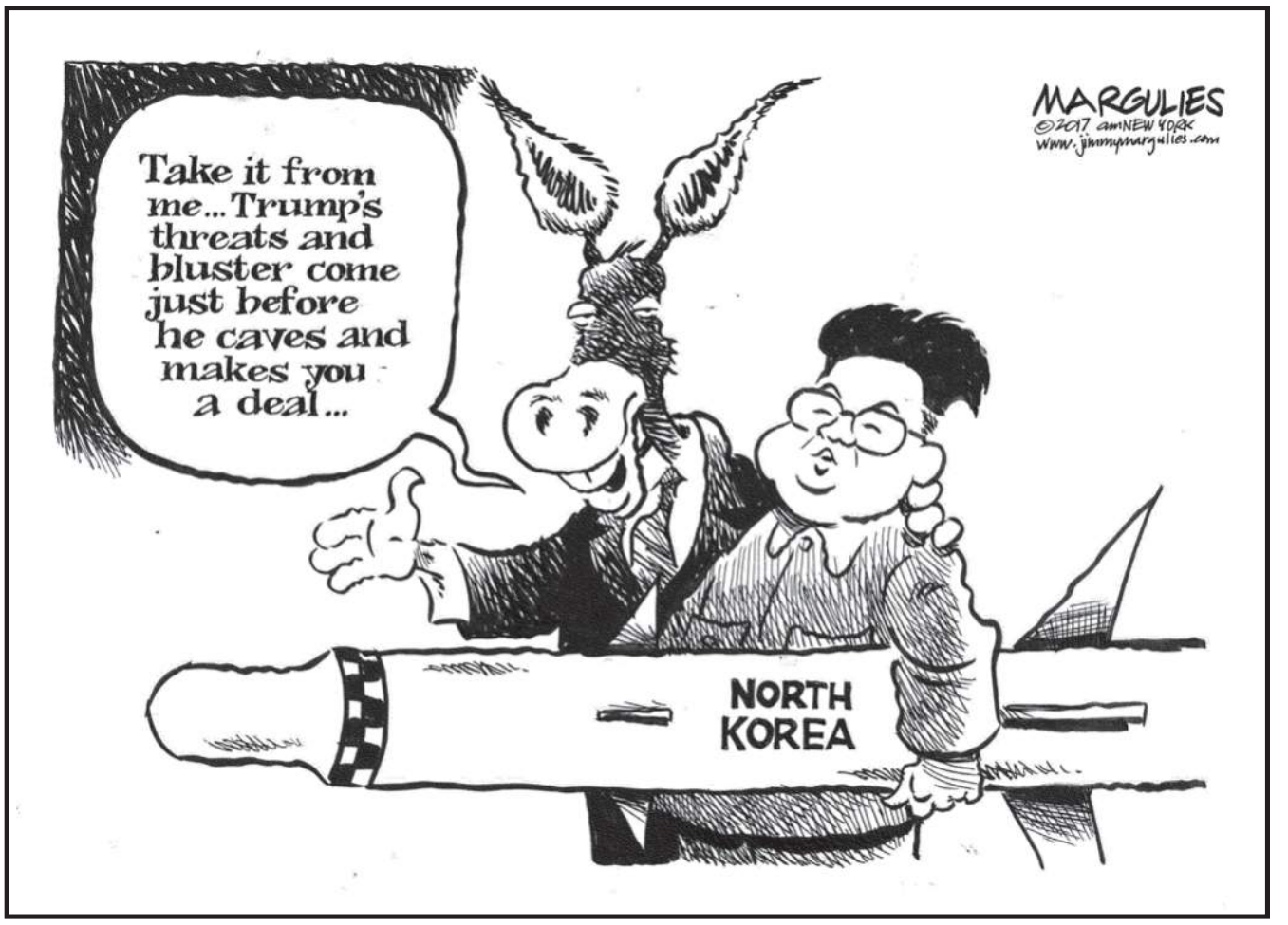
In August, Duterte told police that if human rights organizers got in their way, "you shoot them."

In contrast to Trump, the State Department says that, under Duterte, "concerns about police impunity increased significantly" as torture and extrajudicial killings persist. Yet Trump seems to be encouraging Duterte.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, formerly of the murderous Khmer Rouge, specifically cited Trump as justification for his crackdown on press freedoms. "Trump understands that (journalists) are an anarchic group. Anarchic human rights are rights that destroy the nation. I hope foreign friends understand this," the premier said this year. Last week, the government silenced the nation's 24-year-old English-language newspaper, The Cambodia Daily.

Likewise, Trump's attacks on the news media have helped justify the roundup and harassment of reporters by

See TRUMP'S on Next Page


Take it from me... Trump's threats and bluster come just before he caves and makes you a deal...
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Involving India, Pakistan in Afghanistan effort would create a bigger mess

By RASIL BASU
Tribune News Service

Rasil Basu was in Kabul from the spring of 1986 through the summer of 1988 as the senior United Nations Development Program advisor to the Afghan Government for Integrating Women in the Planning Process. She can be reached at rasilsinghbasu@gmail.com.

The Sept. 11 observances and President Donald Trump's speech last month have returned Afghanistan to the headlines. The president said a rapid exit of U.S. forces, there since after the terror attacks of 2001, would leave a void that terrorist groups would fill.

I listened with an equal sense of irony and foreboding as he called on India and Pakistan to step in and help rout the Taliban and other such groups out of Afghanistan.

If past is precedent, that could be, at worst, highly dangerous, and at best, an unviable prospect. As a United Nations Development Program consultant, I lived in Afghanistan's capital city of Kabul in the late 1980s advising the Soviet-backed government on elevating the role of women. From that vantage point, I was witness to the early rise of the Taliban before it grew into one of the greatest repressors of women the world has known and destroyed the progress we had helped to make.

I also recall the United States' contributions to its inception and growth. The sad truth is, had it not been for U.S. administrations in the 1980s and '90s arming and funding some of the Taliban's radical Islamist precursors, Afghanistan may not have turned into what Trump calls "a government that gave comfort and shelter to terrorists."

"The Americans hoped that the Taliban could bring peace and stability to Afghanistan," wrote former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in his 2006 book, "In the Line of Fire." He wrote the U.S. "welcomed the emergence of a 'third force' ... " but later dissociated themselves from the Taliban.

Though Trump is not to blame for that history, there were other, more moderate wings of the Mujahedeen the United States could have supported, which shared the American objective of getting the Soviets out. But U.S. policy favored the political Islamists, joining Saudi Arabia in supporting them with arms and ammunition. Those would be used against the moderates favored by Afghanistan's then-minister of defense, Ahmad Shah Massoud, who was appointed in 1992 in post-communist Afghanistan

Massoud expressed grave concerns about the Taliban, which originated out of religious schools for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. He particularly objected to their repression of Afghan women. In 1994-95 he helped defeat most militant factions in Kabul, but with massive military support from Pakistan, the Taliban regrouped and expanded from their base in Kandahar to the capital to emerge as a new militant fundamentalist force. Massoud was killed two days before Sept. 11, 2001, in a suicide bombing.

Trump now calls for Pakistani assistance to rid Afghanistan of such groups. How likely is that when Pakistan has historically done the opposite? In the 1990s, the head of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, Hamid Gul, wanted Pakistan's mujahedeen to establish a government in Afghanistan for an Islamic revolution that would spread to Central Asia. According to Pakistani journalist Ahmed Rashid, 80,000 to 100,000 Pakistanis fought for the Taliban in Afghanistan. Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence was also actively involved with several al-Qaida training camps in 2000, according to British intelligence.

Two years after the Taliban seized Kabul in 1996 to establish the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, a U.S. State Department document said between 20 percent and 40 percent of Taliban soldiers were Pakistani.

In 2000, the U.N. Security Council imposed an arms embargo against military support to the Taliban, with a notable focus on Pakistan. By 2001, 28,000 to 30,000 Pakistani nationals were reportedly fighting anti-Taliban forces in Afghanistan.

"We have been paying Pakistan billions and billions of dollars, at the same time they are housing the very terrorists that we are fighting," said Trump. He said 20 U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organizations are active in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"The terrorist of yesterday is the hero of today, and the hero of yesterday becomes the terrorist of today," wrote Pakistani author and political scientist Eqbal Ahmed in his 2011 book, "Terrorism: Theirs and Ours." He recalled that President Ronald Reagan in 1985 hosted Afghan mujahedeen and called them "freedom fighters."

As for India, Trump has noted its contributions to stability in Afghanistan but suggested its U.S. trade could be jeopardized unless India steps up its Afghan involvement. Yet even as he bases his Afghan strategy on co-operation from India and Pakistan, the president acknowledged they are, "two nuclear-armed states, whose tense relations threaten to spiral into conflict." That could

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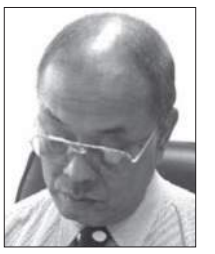
Kapitan Hinemlu`



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Kada unu guiya solu kapitan hinemlo`ña. Haf` disposision-mu hagu mismu para un` gosa `sino padesi. Gi diariu yan sattun na inadahe libianu ha`ani-mu katkuet ora.

Komprendiyun na megai besis na tita adahe bisiun paladat-ta. Ta sumuke pachot-ta mas ke regulat na kantidan neñkanu`. `An taya` homlu` na eksisiu un` chochogue pues umadulalag hamyu yan sinturamu.

Chadeg nina`ye hau daibites yan chenot korason. Gigon inadite hau sumen makat para un` bira tatte i rilos soluke fotmat un` petsige diariu na eksisiu sinparat. Maulegña inadahe taftaf ke `nai esta ni para un` gotde sapatosmu makat.

Pot para unna` gai grasia eksisiu, kone` i tropa ya in` fan hamyu manmamokat pot para in` estira i gigat gagu`. Siempre i famaguon makomprende impottansian eksisiu.

Kobransa: Motmut inadahe gi sasañgan niha kontodu kobransan dibi. Ti direktamente makopbla i gai kuenta. Mana` esgin petsonat na chinatsaga tat kumu "Ai, gai problema i lahihu man-apase atkilon guma` giya California". Hagu ni man-didibi debi un` chahlau ensegidas ayu na mensahe. Gigon ha kaikaigue` humanau debi un` nana`lu kuentamu gi hilu` agradesimientu yan dispensasion.

Mamaisen...: Hu huñgog inali`e mamaisen saina ni gai ginatdun. Gi uttimu palabra ilegña i uma-adiñgan, "Parehu dinisehan todu atmos banda para ta pega i dos patgon gi sagan niha. Maila` echa motmut bendision ya u tutuhun familian niha mismu". Un` dañkulu na pagpag kanai yan lagu` minagof!

Dopblada: Huna` sesetbi "minachum atdau" kuentan ekspresiu pot finatai. Mas suabe usun palabra lau komprendiyun sustansiaña segun gi dopblamu. `Nai matai un` amiguhu hu despide kumu hinanau minachum atdau. Gi puntan tanu` siempre u matagam ni man-añghet gi gua`ot i lañget ya umakonduse para iya paraisu.

Puti: Sige i dos amigu umetupag gi hiyuñg iya Garapan gi kantun rubentason. Tumalag hilu` i unu ya ilegña, "Pare, puti popble lau putiña mudoru!" Dios mihu na grasia. Era, mali`e probleman `an acha mudoru siha. Ni peska taya`!

**Haga`:** Guaha-yu` sumañgane na i Karolinas ti indihinau giya Marianas. Magofyu` sa` gai haga`yu` dididi ya ayu ha` na patte ti pinalala`e matdision Islas De Las Ladrones! Dios tiampare! Achog ti bai gai haga` rasan saki!

Kanastra: I usun mama` (pugua`, pupulu, afog yan amaska) ti pot para un` mana` agaga` pachot-mu `sino labios-mu. Gaige este na attikulu siha gi halum kanastra.

`Nai mattu hau manbisita mana`e hau ni kanastra para un` ami hau. I mama` siempre un` nina` bulachun ñaihon ya nina`e hau sensian batbaru sumañgan haf` teñga finato-mu. Estague` usuña antes i mama` gi halum kanastra.

**Nina`e:** Dos klasen nina`en chenchule` guaha gi kustumbreta: regalu yan ika. I mefe`na mediu pot minagof pot kompliaños `sino bautismu yan fandañgo. I ika nina`en oran chinatsaga tat kumu finatai. Este i segundu i matutuge papa` ni familia pot para umana na`lu `an gai chinatsaga i man-na`e. Estague` unu gi fitme na pogse` natibu.

Indihinau: Sige madibina asuntu siha ni para u fan madiskute gi konfirensian man-indihinau `sino natibu. Puede fotmat makonsidera haf` ennau siha na attikulu pot no tafan daña yan manadan mansañgan ni mangueku! Gi finu` i kuentus "Dispues de todu i hapbla megaiña hapbla ke sustansia".

Espiritu: Guaha siha lugat guine gi tano`ta ni debi un` motmut respetu pot lugat espiritun mañaina-ta desde anitgu na tiempu. Iya Puntan Muchot un` lugat `nai siempre bai tekun mangagau dispensu pot hagas señgsoñg peskadot antigu.

Kontodu Chalan Galaide` papa` esta iya Chalan Reda mangai chalan i espiritun mañaina-ta ni debi un` adahe gi hilu` sinsiyu na respetu. Guaha siha fina` kantun tasi na maulegña lokue` un` suhaye gi lemlem tautau. Gigon un` disatentuye siempre un` mana` hineddan sin presisu.

**E`salau:** Tinatiye `nai ha kachet siha i professot karisu finabrikan kantan e`salau (chant). Kontodu pale` totut sige umesalau tinayuyot ni tatnai hu huñgog antes. Duru i amiguhu Magoo chaka chalegña `nai ha huñgog tinayuyot e`salau gi Chamoru. Ilegña, "Amanu este mage a`sake este guatu a`klasen kanta?"

Yangin un` komprende sustansian apusientu gi guma` familia pues libianu un` konfitma na desde antigu na tiempu taya` tinayuyot e`salau. Sagradu na lugat i apusientun familia. Pues i dos umasagua solu siña humalum guennau na kuattu. Pues manu na kampu `nai para un` tutuhun tinayuyot e`salau? Dispues hagas tai relihion i natibu esta i finattun Español.

Peska: Maestron peska gi alacha siha na tiempu gigon makone` primet guihan ma-aka` ya mayotten ñaihon. Ala kuenta ginagau dispensu yan suette gi biahen niha. Kontodu halum tasi dañkulu na respetu para i man-mofona.

Open letter to the people of the CNMI

By DAVID M. SABLAN
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: The following was originally published in the opinion section of the Saipan Tribune in June 2016. It is being republished here at the request of the author. Due to its length, it is being published in two parts.

First of a two-part series

The following is my personal views and concerns that I feel should be brought to the attention of the business community and to our elected leaders. I sincerely hope that there will be collaborative effort between leaders of the business community and our elected leaders. I am concerned about what will happen to our economy if we do not act forthwith and solve the difficult labor issues facing us today.

For years we have been aware of the eventual phase-out of the CW-1 program, but we probably did not consider the serious consequences facing our economy. There has been one extension granted to the CNMI on the CW phase-out. The federal government was hoping that local residents would take on the needed manpower to boost the economic development. The influx of investors, especially in the area of tourism, is flourishing and will continue to flourish to a point where available local workers are unable to meet the demand.

The growth of our economy indispensably requires the importation of nonresident workers. I find the need for more workers still exists today. The only solution is to restrict further growth of our economy. Obviously, that is unrealistic.

I have therefore prepared the following points in hope to truly assess where the deficiency lies, find an acceptable balance to continue our economic growth, and its need for more workers.

Can we operate within our means?

Over the past decade or so, the CNMI has suffered financially to a point where it was unable to meet its obligations. The financial deficiencies still exist today. This problem needs to be dealt with by the Legislative Branch, the Executive Branch, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and other organizations in the CNMI.

We are all aware of the serious financial liability that the CNMI government is presently facing. It is inevitable that such liability must be shouldered by all of us living in the CNMI. I have not been able to pinpoint the exact amount of that liability but I am sure it is in the millions. I suggest the appropriate agency of this government prepare a financial statement. We must all work together and find the least painful way to resolve the serious financial crisis of this government, lest we forget that the financial obligations of this government is, in fact, the obligation of every taxpayers in the CNMI.

One solution that would ease the financial tension is to reduce the cost of operating the government down to the departmental and division levels—reduce the number of government employees to a bearable level and arrange with businesses to absorb them. Provide for a program where business firms will train the new locally hired employees. This would solve the needed reduction of operating costs to the government while the private sector would gain someone who may be permanently employed.

In Guam, for instance, its legislature is unicameral, with 15 senators. Guam's population is about 175,000. Here in the CNMI the estimated population is about 55,000, including nonresidents. We should seriously consider reducing our number of senators and House members to, say, six and 10 members, respectively. The lawmakers could meet 10 working days per quarter and be paid $100 per diem. Reduce the number of Legislative Bureau staff to four attorneys and eight to 10 supporting staff and have them work permanently. The Legislature might be able to operate on a budget of, say, $1.5 million per annum. The excess number of employees can be absorbed by the private sector.

I fully recognize that the above scenario might be construed as "ridiculous" by some. However, as a taxpayer, it is critically important that we have to find a way to reduce the expenses of operating our government. What I am suggesting is probably next to impossible but how else are we going to cope with the needed manpower in the private sector?

We need to know the answers to the following questions. We will then be in a much better position to fine-tune the overall manpower needs of the CNMI.

- What is the total number of workers in the CNMI government?
- What is the total number of resident workers presently employed in the private sector?
- What is the total number of CNMI residents who are unemployed?
- How many CW-1 workers does the CNMI have at the present time?
- What is the estimated number of additional workers needed now?
- What is the estimated number of additional workers needed annually as of 2018?

According to U.S. Homeland Security/Immigration, the CW program will be phased out by 2019. Perhaps the business community should consider converting some, if not all, to H-1 and H-2 categories.

To be continued tomorrow

David M. Sablan Sr. is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and a retired executive of TanHoldings Corp.

TRUMP'S

From Page 10

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whom Trump also has praised.

We've said this before, but it bears repeating: Words have consequences. The American president's words have the power to destroy lives and get people killed in faraway lands. Wouldn't it make more sense for him to think first, then speak, instead of the other way around?

(c)2017 St. Louis Post-Dispatch

INVOLVING

From Page 10

certainly result if they get involved on opposite sides.

It is doubtful that creating a viable democratic Afghanistan is something the U.S. can achieve. Afghanistan was never a cohesive, centrally planned state. It was a nomadic, tribal Islamic society held together by village settlements. Even the Soviet hold was at best tenuous in the cities, and extended to only 20 percent of the countryside. The USSR couldn't hold onto Afghanistan; nor could the U.S. win the war.

As an Indian woman who has worked over 60 years toward global women's empowerment in New York, Afghanistan and India, and currently lives under the Hindu-centric government of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I see both the perils of militant Islamic fundamentalism and of the growing global anti-Muslim sentiment. To be blunt: Accelerating the existing tensions between those two South Asian nations and intensifying the tenuous status of Muslims targeted under Modi's regime could create a very dangerous, if not critical, situation in the region.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.
▲88° ▼78°

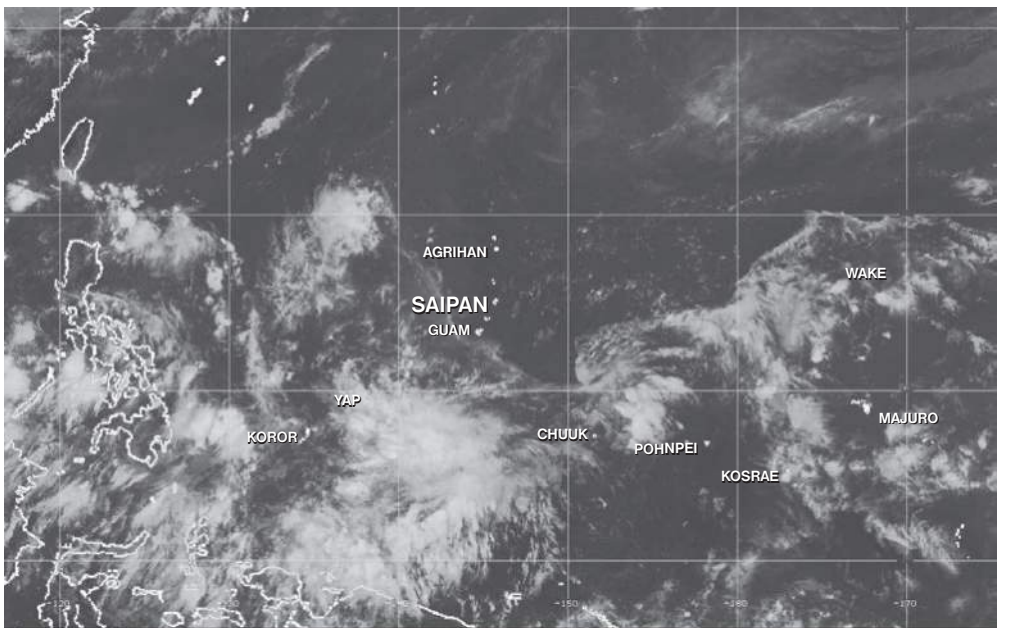
THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.
▲87° ▼77°

FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:33 AM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Inserted scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms into the forecast for this morning based on the satellite loop. The question is whether or not any of the rain will arrive before it dissipates. At any rate, it should be gone well before noon, leaving isolated showers and thunderstorms for the rest of the day. Have reduced showers to isolated for tonight and Wednesday, as the latest GFS shows moderate drying in the mid levels during that time. Models still support increased showers over the coming weekend, and have left scattered showers in for that time.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	89° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 50°
Beijing	Sunny	84° / 63°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	86° / 75°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 55°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	76° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Melbourne	Windy	70° / 46°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°
New York	Showers	82° / 68°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	64° / 46°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	79° / 64°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°
Salem	Thunderstorms	89° / 69°
San Francisco	Windy	65° / 54°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 57°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 66°
Washington, DC	Sunny	86° / 67°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:38 AM	LOW TIDE	0.58
7:12 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94
1:53 PM	LOW TIDE	0.09
8:02 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.95

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:12 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:50 AM	6:23 PM	-
Thursday	6:43 am	7:05 pm	-
Friday	7:35 am	7:46 pm	-
Saturday	8:26 am	8:28 pm	-
Sunday	9:16 am	9:09 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
ZE582	3:40am	7:00am	Daily
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	4:45am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	8:55am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:00am	1, 2, 4, 6via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:15am	3, 5, 7 via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	8:50pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:10pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	10:40pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	8:50pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	10:40pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA6391/159	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE581	9:00pm	2:40am+1	Daily
LJ651	10:00pm	3:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:20am	3:00pm	Daily

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA192/6395	9:45pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA184/6395	11:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:10pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA116/6395	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Groups undergo wheelchair services training

With the support of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Disability Network Partners recently sponsored— for the very first time— a Seating and Wheeled Mobility Services Training Workshop.

OVR executive director Arlene Yamagata, M.S., CRC said the training included a combination of lecture, hands-on experience, client demonstrations, case examples, and opportunities for group discussion.

"Topics covered service delivery models, team members, roles and responsibilities, seating and mobility evaluation, simulation, measurement, common seating and mobility issues, distinguishing technology features, documentation requirements, and the impact of regulatory and legislative activities," Yamagata said.

At the beginning of this year, OVR honed in on supporting employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, which are all in line with increasing awareness and promoting independence for individuals with disabilities, while improving skills for caretakers throughout the Commonwealth.

This workshop saw Laura Cohen, Ph.D., PT, ATP/SMS offer the training to those involved in wheelchair service delivery including clinicians, suppliers, claim reviewers, and those looking to increase their knowledge of wheelchair provision and specialty evaluations.

"Dr. Cohen is a principal for Rehabilitation and Technology Consultants, LLC in Arlington, Virginia. She is a national expert on complex rehabilitation technology and came to Saipan to facilitate the training as well as to consult with the treating team on the assistive technology needs of clients," Yamagata said.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said that increasing training opportunities for all disability and vocational rehabilitation stakeholders is a significant priority.

"Increasing our knowledge and training base will definitely improve the quality of rehabilitation and prepare employers and give employees with disabilities additional support in proper and dignified handling. I thank all the efforts of OVR and all our Disability Network Partners for continuing to advocate the trainings. It is my hope that we can strengthen vocational rehabilitation and increase client success for years to come," Torres said.

Over 30 participants represented the following public and private organizations: Eucon Medical Health Services, Healthcare Specialties, Marianas Health, Pro Therapy, LLC, Assistive Technology Professional Services, Guam System for Assistive Technology, Public School System Special Education Program, Medquest Medical Supply, NMC Disability Support Services, Council on Developmental Disabilities, Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy System Inc., Maternal & Child Health Bureau, CNMI Division of Procurement & Supply , NMC University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. ***(PR)***

COURTESY CALL ERWIN ENCINARES

Representatives of the South Korean Gyeonggido province make a courtesy call on lawmakers of the 20th Legislature on Capital Hill last week.

USCIS resumes premium processing

WASHINGTON—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services resumed premium processing yesterday for all H-1B visa petitions subject to the fiscal year 2018 cap.

The fiscal year 2018 cap has been set at 65,000 visas.

Premium processing has also resumed for the annual 20,000 additional petitions that are set aside to hire workers with a U.S. master's degree or higher educational degree.

H-1B visas provide skilled workers for a wide range of specialty occupations, including information technology, academic research, and accounting.

When a petitioner requests the agency's premium processing service, USCIS guarantees a 15-day processing time.

If the 15-calendar day processing time is not met, the agency will refund the petitioner's premium processing service fee and continue with expedited processing of the application.

This service is only available for pending petitions, not new submissions, since USCIS received enough petitions in April to meet the fiscal year 2018 cap.

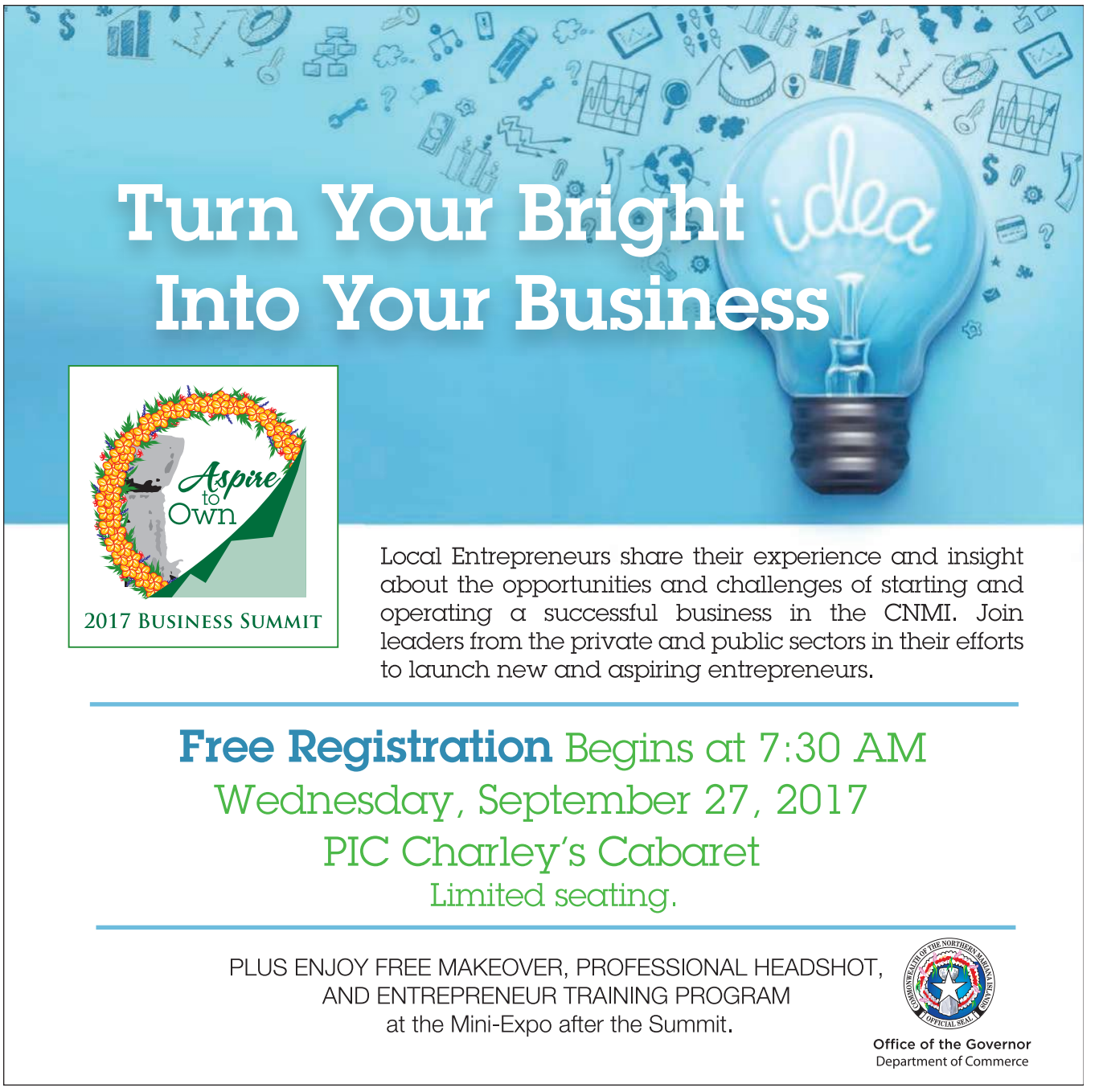
In addition to yesterday's resumption of premium processing for H-1B visa petitions subject to the fiscal year 2018 cap, USCIS previously resumed premium processing H-1B petitions filed on behalf of physicians under the Conrad 30 waiver program, as well as interested government agency waivers and for certain H-1B petitions that are not subject to the cap.

Premium processing remains temporarily suspended for all other H-1B petitions, such as extensions of stay.

USCIS plans to resume premium processing for all other remaining H-1B petitions not subject to the fiscal year 2018 cap as agency workloads permit. However, remaining petitioners may submit a request to expedite their application if they meet the specific agency criteria. USCIS reviews all expedite requests on a case-by-case basis, and requests are granted at the discretion of the office leadership.

USCIS will release future announcements when we begin accepting premium processing for other H-1B petitions, not subject to the fiscal year 2018 cap.

For more information on USCIS and its programs, visit uscis.gov. ***(PR)***


Turn Your Bright
Into Your Business
idea
Aspire to Own
2017 Business Summit
Local Entrepreneurs share their experience and insight about the opportunities and challenges of starting and operating a successful business in the CNMI. Join leaders from the private and public sectors in their efforts to launch new and aspiring entrepreneurs.
Free Registration Begins at 7:30 AM
Wednesday, September 27, 2017
PIC Charley's Cabaret
Limited seating.
PLUS ENJOY FREE MAKEOVER, PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOT,
AND ENTREPRENEUR TRAINING PROGRAM
at the Mini-Expo after the Summit.
Office of the Governor
Department of Commerce

Business

State, federal authorities proposing new rules on Equifax

NEW YORK (AP)—State and federal authorities are proposing tougher regulations against Equifax and the entire credit monitoring industry after the company announced that personal information like Social Security numbers of about 143 million Americans was exposed.

This is on top of the lawsuits already filed against Equifax by state attorneys general, and a multitude of lawsuits filed that are seeking class-action status.

Here's the latest on the breach:

This July 21, 2012, file photo shows Equifax Inc., offices in Atlanta. AP

NEW YORK CLAMPS DOWN

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is proposing new state regulations for credit reporting agencies. The Democratic governor announced Monday that he's directed the state Department of Financial Services to issue new rules requiring credit reporting agencies to register in New York for the first time and to comply with the state's cybersecurity standards.

The proposal would require Equifax and similar firms to adhere to the same consumer protection rules the state imposes on banks and insurance companies.

Credit bureaus like Equifax are lightly regulated compared to other parts of the financial system.

DEMOCRATS WANT MORE REGULATIONS

Senators from Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island are pushing new bills as well. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren introduced legislation aimed at giving control over credit and personal information to consumers and preventing credit reporting agencies from profiting off of consumers' information during a freeze.

Massachusetts Sen. Edward Markey joined with Connecticut Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse to introduce a bill giving consumers the right to stop data brokers from selling personal information for marketing purposes.

Warren also sent letters to credit reporting agencies Equifax, TransUnion and Experian and requested the Federal Trade Commission and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau launch an investigation into consumer data security.

WHAT IS EQUIFAX DOING?

Along with bulking up its call centers and waiving fees for credit freezes, Equifax announced late Friday that its chief information officer and chief security officer would be leaving the company immediately.

The credit data company—under intense pressure since it disclosed last week that hackers accessed the Social Security numbers, birthdates and other information—also released a detailed, if still muddled, timeline of how it discovered and handled the breach.

Equifax said that Susan Mauldin, who had been the top security officer, and David Webb, the chief technology officer, are retiring.

Mauldin is being replaced by Russ Ayers, an information technology executive inside Equifax. Webb is being replaced by Mark Rohrwasser, who most recently was in charge of Equifax's international technology operations.

Company executives are also under scrutiny. Equifax's CEO has been called to testify before Congress on Oct. 3.

And three Equifax executives sold shares worth a combined $1.8 million just a few days after the company discovered the breach. Equifax said the three executives "had no knowledge that an intrusion had occurred at the time."

Equifax's stock has fallen more than a third since the scandal broke.

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Consumers should be vigilant and diligent. That means:

■ Closely monitoring their credit reports, which are available free once a year, and stagger them to see one every four months.

■ Keeping watch, possibly for a long time. Scammers who get ahold of the data could use it at any time—and with 143 million to choose from, they may be patient.

■ Considering freezing your credit reports. That stops thieves from opening new credit cards or loans in your name, but it also prevents you from opening new accounts. So if you want to apply for something, you need to lift the freeze a few days beforehand.

GOP eyes popular tax breaks to finance overhaul

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republicans straining to find about $1 trillion to finance sweeping tax cuts are homing in on two popular deductions that are woven into the nation's fiscal fabric—the mortgage interest deduction that millions of homeowners prize and the deduction for state and local taxes popular in Democratic strongholds.

About 30 million Americans, or about 20 percent of taxpayers, deduct mortgage interest from their income taxes, a deduction Realtors and homebuilders argue is a catalyst to home ownership in the United States. According to the most recent IRS tally, nearly 44 million people claim the deduction for state and local taxes in 2014, especially in the high-tax, high-income states of California, New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Republicans are determined to overhaul the nation's tax code after more than three decades, delivering on a top legislative priority for President Donald Trump. Highlighting items that have been modernized since 1986, the last year the tax code was overhauled. Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., made a pitch for reform, saying on Monday, "Just like the rotary phone of the 80s, the American tax code is seriously outdated."

The two deductions are in the cross-hairs as Republicans look to slash the corporate and individual tax rates, according to congressional aides and strong hints from some lawmakers. The aides spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to speak publicly. The deductions point up how what's seen by some as a special-deal loophole is embraced by others as a revered middle-class touchstone. That's a major reason why an overhaul of the tax system—a political imperative for the GOP—is so difficult.

House Republicans, who have been working behind closed doors, are promising to reveal details of their plan next week.

The Trump administration has thrown its weight behind a revamp of the tax system, but Republicans are split on some core issues.

They are divided over whether to add to the nation's soaring debt with tax cuts. In the Senate, Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who heads the tax-writing Finance Committee, says his panel won't be "a rubber stamp" for the House Republicans' plan. The GOP is at odds over eliminating the deduction for state and local taxes.

There are plenty of GOP lawmakers in Democratic-controlled New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and California, and they're pushing back. A coalition of 70 lawmakers from blue states—including 20 Republicans—lodged their objection formally to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Repealing the state-local deduction for federal income taxes would subject people to being taxed twice, they say.

Some prominent Republicans come from those four blue states—like House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy of California, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen of New Jersey, who heads the powerful House Appropriations Committee, and Rep. Barbara Comstock of Virginia, a second-term lawmaker in a competitive district outside Washington.

Rep. Leonard Lance, a New Jersey Republican, is a leader of the coalition. His suburban district has a median household income around $106,000. "If we're going to discuss subsidies, we should discuss subsidies across the board," he said in a telephone interview.

The administration wants the state and local deduction to be eliminated or reduced because, officials say, the federal government shouldn't be subsidizing states and wealthy households.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

EU Chamber warns China: Open economy faster or risk backlash

BEIJING (AP)—A foreign business group appealed to China on Tuesday to move faster in carrying out promises to open its state-dominated economy and warned that inaction might fuel a backlash against free trade. Beijing faces mounting complaints from Washington and Europe about barriers in industries from finance to medical equipment while its own competitors have largely unfettered access to foreign markets. Beijing is backtracking in some areas, including by reducing access to its legal services market, the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China said in a report. "The current lack of reciprocity in market access is not politically sustainable," the chamber president, Mats Harborn, told reporters ahead of the report's release. "We worry that if China is not moving from words to action that this could actually lead to a backlash against the desired economic globalization."

Judge: Ex-NFL players may be targets for 'misleading' offers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A federal judge overseeing the NFL's $1 billion concussion settlement with former players says she's concerned they're being targeted by claims service providers, lenders and other groups seeking a share of the money. At a hearing in Philadelphia on Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Anita Brody will hear allegations unscrupulous third-party providers have been taking advantage of players with significant brain damage. The judge has said in a court order she'll weigh the legality of contracts signed by former players who were duped by "deceptive or misleading solicitations." The judge will hear from Christopher Seeger, who represented the class of more than 20,000 former NFL players now eligible for payments. Seeger has been investigating the third-party groups at the judge's request.

Nation

US immigrants sue over Trump's end of deportation protection

IRVINE, Calif. (AP)—Six immigrants brought to the United States as children who became teachers, graduate students and a lawyer sued the Trump administration on Monday over its decision to end a program shielding them from deportation.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in San Francisco alleged the move violated the constitutional rights of immigrants who lack legal status and provided information about themselves to the U.S. government so they could participate in the program.

"The consequences are potentially catastrophic," said Jesse Gabriel, a lawyer for the plaintiffs. "These people can very powerfully and very clearly communicate the extent to which they organized their lives around this program."

The lawsuit joins others filed over President Donald Trump's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program which has allowed nearly 800,000 immigrants to obtain work permits and deportation protection since 2012.

More than a dozen states from Maine to California have sued over the administration's decision to phase out the program, alleging similar constitutional violations. So has the University of California system.

The impact of Trump's decision directly weighs on plaintiffs' personal lives and decisions they made to advance their careers in the U.S.

AP

In this Sept. 1, 2017 file photo, Loyola Marymount University student and dreamer Maria Carolina Gomez joins a rally in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA program, outside the Edward Roybal Federal Building in Los Angeles.

Viridiana Chabolla, a 26-year-old law student at University of California Irvine, said she does not know how she would repay a loan she took out to cover living costs or how she would afford books or food if her protection from the program known as DACA is rescinded.

"I imagined in the years to come I'd be able to get a job and would be able to pay it back," said Chabolla, whose parents brought her illegally to the U.S. from Mexico when she was 2. "I imagined I'd at least have DACA."

The lawsuit claimed that the administration's decision violates the immigrants' rights to equal protection and due process.

The plaintiffs—who are from Mexico and Thailand—include teachers, a medical student and 34-year-old lawyer Dulce Garcia, who recently signed a lease for an office and hired employees believing she could stay and work in the U.S. under the program, said Gabriel, an attorney for the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.

Trump's announcement on Sept. 5 came after 10 Republican attorneys general threatened to sue in an attempt to halt the program. Under Trump's plan, those already enrolled remain covered until their two-year work permits expire, and some renewals are being allowed. But there will be no new applications.

Department of Justice spokesman Devin O'Malley blamed the Obama administration for starting the program and said the agency will defend Trump's decision.

"It was the previous administration's arbitrary circumvention of Congress that got us to this point," he said. "The Department of Justice looks forward to defending this Administration's position and restoring respect for the rule of law."

Immigrant advocates praise the program for protecting immigrants who were raised and educated in the U.S. despite their lack of legal immigration papers. The program's opponents criticize it as too broad and said major changes to immigration laws need to go through Congress and cannot be enacted by the U.S. president alone.

Senate GOP musters final push to erase Obama healthcare law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans expressed growing hope Monday for a final push to scuttle President Barack Obama's healthcare law, an effort that still faces an uphill climb and just a two-week window to pass. Adding more risk, senators would be in the dark about the bill's impact on Americans, since the Congressional Budget Office says crucial estimates won't be ready in time for a vote.

Democrats backed by doctors, hospitals, and patients' groups mustered an all-out effort to finally smother the GOP drive, warning of millions losing coverage and others facing skimpier policies. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer went further, saying the partisan measure threatened the spirit of cooperation between President Donald Trump and Democratic leaders embodied in a recent budget deal and progress on immigration.

"After two weeks of thinking bipartisanship, that flickering candle, might gain some new light, this is the last thing we need," Schumer, D-N.Y., said on the Senate floor.

Two months after one of the GOP's top priorities crashed on the Senate floor, the revived attempt to uproot Obama's law is being led by GOP Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Louisiana's Bill Cassidy.

Vice President Mike Pence was calling senators to seek support, White House officials said. And looking to add momentum, House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., said the House would vote on the bill if it passes the Senate. Speaking in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, Ryan called it "our best, last chance to get repeal and replace done."

The 140-page bill would replace much of Obama's statute with block grants to states and give them wide leeway on spending the money. It would let states ease coverage requirements under that 2010 law, end Obama's mandates that most Americans buy insurance and that companies offer coverage to workers, and cut and reshape Medicaid.

A victory would let Trump and Republican leaders claim redemption on their "repeal and replace" effort. While the House approved its version of the bill in May, the drive collapsed when the GOP-led Senate defeated three proposals for scrapping Obama's 2010 overhaul in July.

"He's the grave robber," No. 3 Senate GOP leader John Thune of South Dakota said of Cassidy. "This thing was six feet under."

Still, Thune cautioned that leaders needed votes from 50 of the 52 GOP senators to win.

Senate leaders have no desire to lose yet another health care vote. After July's embarrassing Senate setback, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he'd not revisit it unless he was assured he had the votes to succeed, and many Republicans began refocusing on another big GOP priority, a tax overhaul.

Now, Graham and Cassidy say they believe they are close to the votes they'd need, prompting GOP leaders to check if they can finally succeed.

The sponsors say their proposal would let states decide what health care programs work best for their residents. Opponents say patients would suffer.

The GOP proposal "would weaken access to the care Americans need and deserve," said a statement from 16 patients groups including the American Heart Association and the March of Dimes. The American College of Physicians and the Children's Hospital Association also oppose it.

3 arrested during protest at Georgia Tech after vigil

ATLANTA (AP)—Three people were arrested Monday night during a protest after a vigil for a Georgia Tech student who was fatally shot by campus police, a university spokesman said.

Police shot and killed Scout Schultz late Saturday night after the 21-year-old student called 911 to report an armed and possibly intoxicated suspicious person, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation has said.

Georgia Tech sent out alerts urging students to shelter indoors Monday night and lock doors and windows because of violent protests. Video posted on social media showed a police vehicle burning in the street and officers pinning people to the ground as onlookers shouted at them.

After a peaceful vigil, about 50 protesters marched to the campus police department, university spokesman Lance Wallace said. A police vehicle was damaged and two officers suffered minor injuries, with one taken to a hospital for treatment.

Police restored order relatively quickly, and three people were arrested and charged with inciting a riot and battery of an officer, Wallace said.

In a statement released through attorney Chris Stewart, Schultz's family urged protesters to remain peaceful.

"(W)e ask that those who wish to protest Scout's death do so peacefully. Answering violence with violence is not the answer," the statement said. "Our goal is to work diligently to make positive change at Georgia Tech in an effort to ensure a safer campus for all students."

The GBI has said an officer responding to a 911 call about 11:17 p.m. Saturday shot Schultz as the student advanced on officers with a knife and refused commands to put down the knife. Stewart said Monday that the GBI confirmed to him that Schultz was holding a multipurpose tool and that the knife blade was not out.

Schultz was the one who called 911, GBI spokeswoman Nelly Miles said in an emailed statement Monday.

"In the call, Shultz describes the person as a white male, with long blonde hair, white T-shirt and blue jeans who is possibly intoxicated, holding a knife and possibly armed with a gun on his hip," Miles said, adding that three suicide notes were found in Schultz's dorm room.

Investigators recovered a multi-purpose tool at the scene but didn't find any guns, Miles said.

Asia

Defending Myanmar, Suu Kyi says most Rohingya villages calm

AP

Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi delivers a televised speech to the nation at the Myanmar International Convention Center in Naypyitaw, Myanmar, Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2017.

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—After a mass exodus of Rohingya Muslims sparked allegations of ethnic cleansing, Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Tuesday her country does not fear international scrutiny.

She told the world that even with an estimated 412,000 Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh in less than a month as their villages burned and hundreds were killed, the "great majority" of Muslims within the conflict zone stayed and that "more than 50 percent of their villages were intact."

Aug. 25. Rohingya fled their villages in the military crackdown that followed. Many of their villages were in flames when they left. The government has blamed the Rohingya themselves, but members of the persecuted minority have said soldiers and Buddhist mobs attacked them.

Suu Kyi told foreign diplomats gathered for her speech in Naypyitaw, the capital, that the government was working to restore normalcy in the area.

Though fires have continued to flare in recent days in northern Rakhine state, home to most Rohingya, she said "there have been no armed clashes and there have been no clearance operations" since Sept. 5.

"Nevertheless we are concerned to hear that numbers of Muslims are fleeing across the border to Bangladesh," she said. "We want to understand why this exodus is happening. We would like to talk to those who have fled as well as those who have stayed."

She said she it would be helpful to understand why conflict did not break out everywhere. She invited the diplomats with visit villages that weren't affected so they could learn along with the government "why are they not at each other's throats in these particular areas."

Rohingya now in camps in Bangladesh the implication that Rohingya who were driven from their villages were themselves responsible, or that some members of the ethnic group are safe.

In the Kutupalong refugee camp, Abdul Hafiz said Rohingya once trusted Suu Kyi more than the military that not only ruled for half a century before, but also held her under house arrest for many years. Now Hafiz calls Suu Kyi a "liar" and says Rohingya are suffering more than ever.

He said Suu Kyi should give international journalists more access to their destroyed villages. If Rohingya are proven wrong that they were attacked, he said, "we will not mind if the world decides to kill us all by pushing us into the sea."

The Rohingya have had a long and troubled history in Myanmar, where many of the country's 60 million people look on them with disdain.

Though members of the long-persecuted religious minority first arrived generations ago, they were stripped of their citizenship in 1982, denying them almost all rights and rendering them stateless. They cannot travel freely, practice their religion, or work as teachers or doctors, and they have little access to medical care, food or education.

■■■

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's government said Monday that it has evidence there are extremists who pose a threat to the country's security among the Rohingya Muslims who have fled Myanmar and settled in many Indian cities.

India's Supreme Court was hearing a petition filed on behalf of two Rohingya refugees challenging a government decision to deport the ethnic group from India.

The lawyer representing the Rohingya said the decision was discriminatory.

"This is clearly a case of religious discrimination and an attempt to arouse an anti-Muslim feeling," Prashant Bhushan said.

He said the government had evidence of the presence of militants among the refugees who fled a crackdown by the Myanmar government.

The government said the decision on whether Rohingya refugees should be allowed to remain in the country should be made by the government.

■■■

The Nobel Peace laureate's global image has been damaged by violence since Rohingya insurgents attacked Myanmar security forces on

Rescued Filipino priest talks of need for religious harmony

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—For more than 100 days, Catholic priest Teresito Soganub's life was threatened by every airstrike, gunshot and artillery bombardment that targeted his Islamic State group-aligned captors in the southern Philippines.

When Soganub, 51, began talking Monday about his captivity following his rescue by Philippine troops in Marawi city, there were no bitter condemnations. He spoke of how Muslims and Christians should live in peaceful coexistence.

"I still believe in an interfaith relationship, that we can be united as Muslims and Christians, that we're not enemies," Suganob said on board an air force plane that brought him to Manila.

Soganub has long promoted a dialogue between Muslims and Christians in the country's south, regional assemblyman Zia Alonto Adiong said.

Top military and defense officials met Soganub and he was briefly presented to a huge group of journalists, photographers and TV cameras at the military headquarters.

"Pray for me, for my healing and recovery," said Soganub, who appeared remarkably healthy with a long, white beard, and was in a jovial mood as he thanked his rescuers.

Asked how he was, Soganub said with a laugh, "Physically strong, handsome."

He smiled and waved before being ushered out of a military hall without taking any questions.

Soganub was among many civilians abducted in May when hundreds of militants waving IS-style black flags laid siege to mosque-studded Marawi, a center of Islamic faith in the south of the largely Roman Catholic nation. A few days after his abduction, Soganub appeared in a video, apparently taken under duress by the militants, in which he said he was with about 200 other hostages and that his captors wanted the military to withdraw its forces from the city.

"We want to live another day, we want to live another month," Soganub said in the video while standing alone in front of partially burned buildings.

In another video, the militants were shown smashing religious statutes, ripping a picture of Pope Francis and toppling a crucifix in a Marawi cathedral, in what the military said was an attempt to foment a religious war. Military officials asked Facebook and other social media companies to take down the video.

Other freed hostages have talked about female captives being abused and forced to marry some of the militants. Some hostages were shot and others were forced to loot houses, handle daily chores like cooking or made to wear black uniforms and carry firearms to fight alongside the militants, the military said.

Soganub said in the interview on board the air force plane Monday that he and other hostages were fed rice, sardines, noodles and corned beef taken from grocery stores by the gunmen, but the supply later dwindled alarmingly as the fighting intensified. Military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano said the priest told him he was not harmed by the militants.

Soganub will be allowed to rest and has not been subjected to a detailed questioning about his traumatic experience, Ano told reporters.

The ordeal took a toll on the priest, he said. When somebody at one point told him about an apparent escape plan, Soganub refused to go along.

"No, allow me to die here. I have already accepted my fate," Ano quoted Soganub as telling fellow hostages, who considered making a dash to freedom out of desperation.

Soganub was not aware that the military was planning to rescue him despite the odds, Ano said, adding that troops managed to drive the militants away from a mosque and then grabbed the priest and another hostage.

The gunmen continue to hold about 50 other hostages, Ano said, adding that rescue efforts were underway.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Indonesia raises Bali volcano alert level for second time

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian officials have more than doubled the size of a no go zone around the Mount Agung volcano on the tourist island of Bali and raised its alert level for the second time in less than a week. The National Disaster Mitigation Agency said Monday that people should stay 6 kilometers (3.8 miles) from the crater, and up to 7.5 kilometers (4.7 miles) away to the north, southeast and south-southwest. It said the exclusion zone must be empty of all community activities and residents should be prepared to evacuate at short notice. The agency said there has been a continuing increase in seismic activity as well as visual observations of 50-meter (165-foot) -high blasts from the crater.

Pakistan: Attack at Afghan border kills 1, wounds 11

CHAMAN, Pakistan (AP)—A Pakistan government official says a suicide attack has killed one civilian and wounded 12 others attempting to target a paramilitary vehicle near the Chaman border crossing with Afghanistan. Local administrator Qaiser Khan Nasir said Monday that a suicide bomber targeted the paramilitary patrol but their vehicle sped away and it was passers-by who were struck by the explosion. Khan said three of the wounded were in critical condition at Chaman Hospital. Majlis-e-Abrar, a breakaway faction of the Pakistani Taliban, claimed responsibility for the attack. The group has claimed several such attacks in the recent past.

World

Trump and Macron take spotlight at UN but challenges are key

AP
President Donald Trump shakes hands with French President Emmanuel Macron during a meeting at the Palace Hotel during the United Nations General Assembly, Monday, Sept. 18, 2017, in New York.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.S. President Donald Trump and French leader Emmanuel Macron are expected to take the spotlight at the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations—but it's the tough global challenges from the nuclear threat in North Korea and the plight of Myanmar's minority Muslims to the spread of terrorism and the impact of climate change that will dominate discussions.

The six-day meeting opens Tuesday morning with a state-of-the-world speech by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. He is making his debut at the General Assembly ministerial session along with the American and French leaders.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian set a somber tone for the meeting, telling reporters Monday that dissension and conflict are at their highest levels since the Cold War and that cooperation among nations has become more difficult in a world that is more interdependent than ever.

What is worse, Le Drian said, is that some countries are increasingly questioning the role of working together, "and with a temptation of withdrawal out of fear or selfishness." He gave no examples but appeared to be pointing to growing nationalism in the United States and some European countries.

Many world leaders, concerned about America's priorities and role in the world, will get their first chance to hear and meet Trump. He is scheduled to speak after Guterres and Brazil's president, who for more than 35 years has been the first leader to address the 193-member General Assembly.

Brazilian President Michel Temer, charged last week with obstruction of justice and leading a criminal organization, flew to New York on Monday to continue the tradition, according to his office.

Other key speakers on Tuesday are Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, whose country has been accused by a group of Arab nations including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates of supporting terrorist groups—an allegation Qatar denies. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are also scheduled to address the assembly.

Guterres has called North Korea "the most dangerous crisis that we face today," and while Trump and Macron will grab headlines it's the next steps in dealing with Pyongyang leader Kim Jong Un's relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons that will be watched most closely.

Not far behind on the list of issues needing urgent international attention is the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims, victims of what Guterres calls a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" that has driven nearly 400,000 to flee into Bangladesh over the past three weeks.

The secretary-general said a third major challenge is climate change.

On Monday night, the eve of the ministerial meeting, the second Category 5 hurricane in a month hit the Caribbean, with the small island of Dominica the first landfall for Hurricane Maria. Earlier in the day, Guterres and top government officials from several countries devastated by the other Category 5 storm, Hurricane Irma, addressed a hastily called U.N. meeting and appealed for help to rebuild following that storm's destruction.

Syrian troops battling IS cross river toward US-backed force

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops battling the Islamic State militant group crossed to the eastern bank of the Euphrates River in Deir el-Zour on Monday, threatening a potential faceoff with the U.S.-backed forces operating there.

But the U.S.-led coalition spokesman played down concerns, saying both advancing forces are maintaining lines of communication to avoid conflict.

Col. Ryan Dillon, spokesman for the U.S.-led coalition, told The Associated Press that the top commander of the U.S.-backed Syrian forces has maintained "open lines" of communication and discussions with his counterpart in the Syrian government to avoid friction.

This is the first sign of direct contact between the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces and the forces of Syrian President Bashar Assad, as the race for control of the oil-rich province picks up speed.

Dillon said "de-confliction" talks with Russia have increased in frequency as well as at different operational levels, to avoid ground friction as the forces "converge and have a common goal together" to fight IS.

Dillon's comments came after Syrian troops crossed to the eastern side of the Euphrates river that runs along Deir el-Zour city, where the SDF have been waging their separate offensive against IS. The crossing came two days after the SDF said its fighters were hit by Russian airstrikes on the eastern bank of the river. Russia denied it was behind the airstrikes.

At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said U.S.-Russia "de-confliction" arrangements for preventing unintended conflict between U.S. and Russia in Syria had been working well prior to the Russian airstrikes on SDF fighters.

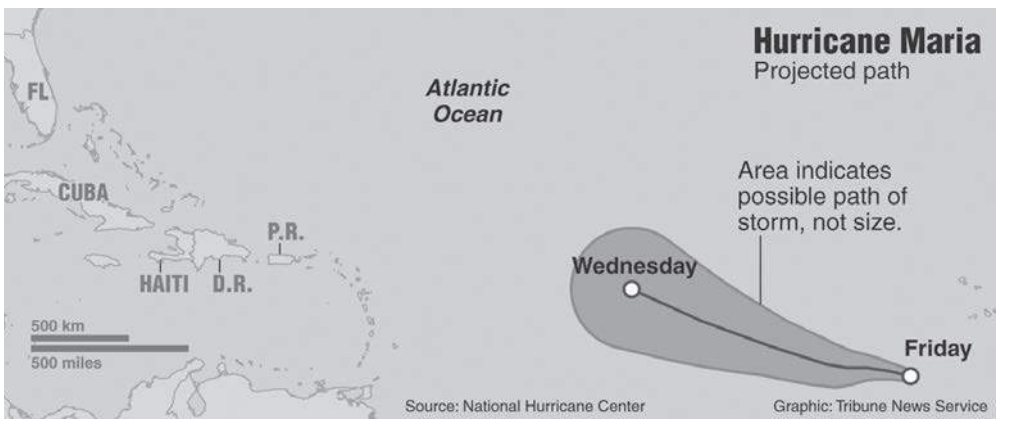
"They've been in place, they've been working, and this is a departure," he said of the attack.

Asked what is being done about it, he said: "We are sorting it out. We have active communications, both State and Defense (departments), with our counterparts over the weekend and going into tomorrow."

Both sides are seeking to expand their control of the oil-rich province bordering Iraq. Many oil fields, including al-Omar, Syria's largest, are scattered on the eastern bank.

The U.S.-backed offensive is focused on the Iraq border area, which is still controlled by IS. Washington fears that further advances by pro-government forces could help Iran expand its influence across the region via a land bridge stretching through Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, all the way to Israel.

Hurricane Maria, month's 2nd Cat 5 storm, lashes at Dominica



ROSEAU, Dominica (AP)—Hurricane Maria swept over the small island of Dominica with catastrophic Category 5 winds overnight, starting a charge into the eastern Caribbean that threatens islands already devastated by Hurricane Irma and holds the possibility of a direct hit on Puerto Rico.

Fierce winds and driving rain lashed mountainous Dominica for hours, causing flooding and tearing roofs from homes. A police official on the island, Inspector Pellam Jno Baptiste, said late Monday that there were no immediate reports of casualties but it was still too dangerous for officers to do a full assessment as the storm raged outside.

"Where we are, we can't move," he said in a brief phone interview while hunkered down against the region's second Category 5 hurricane this month.

Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit earlier captured the fury of Maria as it made landfall. "The winds are merciless! We shall survive by the grace of God," Skerrit wrote at the start of a series of increasingly harrowing posts on Facebook.

A few minutes later, he messaged he could hear the sound of galvanized steel roofs tearing off houses on the small rugged island.

He then wrote that he thought his home had been damaged. And three words: "Rough! Rough! Rough!"

A half hour later, he said: "My roof is gone. I am at the complete mercy of the hurricane. House is flooding." Seven minutes later he posted that he had been rescued.

Officials in Guadeloupe said the French island near Dominica probably would experience heavy flooding and warned that many communities could be submerged. In nearby Martinique, authorities ordered people to remain indoors and said they should be prepared for power cuts and disruption in the water supply.

Authorities in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico warned that people in wooden or flimsy homes should find safe shelter before the storm's expected arrival there on Wednesday.

"You have to evacuate. Otherwise, you're going to die," said Hector Pesquera, the island's public safety commissioner. "I don't know how to make this any clearer."

Maria had maximum sustained winds of 160 mph (260 kph) late Monday. The eye was atop Dominica and about 270 miles (435 kilometers) southeast of St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. It was heading west-northwest at 9 mph (15 kph).

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm would likely intensify over the next 24 hours or longer, noting its eye had shrunk to a compact 10 miles across and warning: "Maria is developing the dreaded pinhole eye."

That generally means an extremely strong hurricane will get even mightier, said Brian McNoldy, a hurricane researcher at the University of Miami. He said it just like when a spinning ice skater brings in their arms and rotates faster.

"You just don't see those in weaker hurricanes," he said.

Focus

AP EXCLUSIVE:

Evidence of spills at toxic site during floods

By MICHAEL BIESECKER and FRANK BAJAK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

A gate at the U.S. Oil Recovery Superfund site is shown Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017, in Pasadena, Texas, where three tanks once used to store toxic waste were flooded during Hurricane Harvey.

PASADENA, Texas (AP)—The U.S. government received reports of three spills at one of Houston's dirtiest Superfund toxic waste sites in the days after the drenching rains from Hurricane Harvey finally stopped. Aerial photos reviewed by The Associated Press show dark-colored water surrounding the site as the floods receded, flowing through Vince Bayou and into the city's ship channel.

The reported spills, which have been not publicly detailed, occurred at U.S. Oil Recovery, a former petroleum industry waste processing plant contaminated with a dangerous brew of cancer-causing chemicals. On Aug. 29, the day Harvey's remnants cleared out, a county pollution control team sent photos to the Environmental Protection Agency of three large concrete tanks flooded with water. That led PRP Group, the company overseeing the ongoing clean-up, to call a federal emergency hotline to report a spill affecting nearby Vince Bayou.

Over the next several days, the company reported two more spills of potentially contaminated storm water from U.S. Oil Recovery, according to reports and call logs obtained by the AP from the U.S. Coast Guard, which operates the National Response Center hotline. The EPA requires that spills of oil or hazardous substances in quantities that may be harmful to public health or the environment be immediately reported to the 24-hour hotline when public waterways are threatened.

The EPA has not publicly acknowledged the three spills that PRP Group reported to the Coast Guard. The agency said an on-scene coordinator was at the site last Wednesday and found no evidence that material had washed off the site. The EPA says it is still assessing the scene.

The AP reported in the days after Harvey that at least seven Superfund sites in and around Houston were underwater during the record-shattering storm. Journalists surveyed the sites by boat, vehicle and on foot. U.S. Oil Recovery was not one of the sites visited by AP. EPA said at the time that its personnel had been unable to reach the sites, though they surveyed the locations using aerial photos.

Following AP's report, EPA has been highlighting the federal agency's response to the flooding at Superfund sites. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt reiterated that safeguarding the intensely-polluted sites is among his top priorities during a visit Friday to the San Jacinto River Waste Pits, one of the sites AP reported about two weeks ago.

Pruitt then boarded a Coast Guard aircraft for an aerial tour of other nearby Superfund sites flooded by Harvey, including U.S. Oil Recovery.

Photos taken Aug. 31 by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows dark-colored water surrounding the site two days after the first spill was reported to the government hotline. While the photos do not prove contaminated materials leaked from U.S. Oil Recovery, they do show that as the murky floodwaters receded, they flowed through Vince Bayou and emptied into the ship channel leading to the San Jacinto River. The hotline caller identified Vince Bayou as the waterway affected by a spill of unknown material in unknown amounts.

Thomas Voltaggio, a retired EPA official who oversaw Superfund cleanups and emergency responses for more than two decades, reviewed the aerial photos, hotline reports and other documents obtained by AP.

"It is intuitively obvious that the rains and floods of the magnitude that occurred during Hurricane Harvey would have resulted in some level of contamination having been released to the environment," said Voltaggio, who is now a private consultant. "Any contamination in those tanks would likely have entered Vince Bayou and potentially the Houston Ship Channel."

He said the amount of contaminants spread from the site during the storm will likely never be known, making the environmental impact difficult to measure. The Houston Ship Channel was already a polluted waterway, with Texas state health officials warning that women of childbearing age and children should not eat fish or crabs caught there because of contamination from dioxins and PCBs.

PRP Group, the corporation formed to oversee the cleanup at U.S. Oil Recovery, said it reported the spills as legally required but said subsequent testing of storm water remaining in the affected tanks showed it met federal drinking water standards. The company declined to provide AP copies of those lab reports or a list of specific chemicals for which it tested, saying the EPA was expected to release that information soon.

U.S. Oil Recovery was shut down in 2010 after regulators determined operations there posed an environmental threat to Vince Bayou, which flows through the property in Pasadena. Pollution at the former hazardous waste treatment plant is so bad that Texas prosecutors charged the company's owner, Klaus Genssler, with five criminal felonies. The German native fled the United States and is considered a fugitive. Genssler did not respond to efforts to contact him last week through his social media accounts or an email account linked to his website address.

More than 100 companies that sent hazardous materials and oily waste to U.S. Oil Recovery for processing are now paying for the multi-million-dollar cleanup there through a court-monitored settlement, including Baker Hughes Oilfield Operations Inc., U.S. Steel Corp. and Dow Chemical Co.

Past sampling of materials at the site revealed high concentrations of hazardous chemicals linked to cancer, such as benzene, ethylbenzene and trichloroethylene. The site also potentially contains toxic heavy metals, including mercury and arsenic.

A 2012 EPA study of the more than 500 Superfund sites across the United States located in flood zones specifically noted the risk that floodwaters might carry away and spread toxic materials over a wider area.

Over the past six years, remediation efforts at U.S. Oil Recovery have focused on the northern half of the site, including demolishing contaminated structures, removing an estimated 500 tons of sludge and hauling away more than 1,000 abandoned containers of waste.

PRP Group said the southern portion of the site, including the three waste tanks that flooded during Harvey, has not yet been fully cleaned. Over the years workers have removed more than 1.5 million gallons of liquid waste—enough to fill nearly three Olympic-sized swimming pools.

AP began asking the EPA whether contaminated material might have again leaked from U.S. Oil Recovery last week, after reviewing the aerial photos taken Aug. 31. The EPA said it visited the site on Sept. 4, nearly a week after site operators reported an initial spill, and again the following week. The EPA said that its staff saw no evidence that toxins had washed away from the scene during either visit.

"Yesterday, an EPA On-scene coordinator conducted an inspection of Vince Bayou to follow up on a rumor that material was offsite and did not find any evidence of a black oily discharge or material from the U.S. Oil Recovery site," an EPA media release said on Thursday.

PRP Group said the spills occurred at the toxic waste site on Aug. 29, Sept. 6 and Sept. 7. One of the EPA's media releases on Sept. 9, more than 11 days after the first call was made to the hotline, made reference to overflowing water at the scene, but did not describe it as a spill.

The company said it reported the first spill after Harvey's floodwaters swamped the three tanks, filling them. The resulting pressure that built up in the tanks dislodged plugs blocking a series of interconnecting pipes, causing the second and third spills reported to the hotline the following week.

The company does not know how much material leaked from the tanks, soaking into the soil or flowing into nearby Vince Bayou. As part of its post-storm cleanup workers have vacuumed 63 truckloads holding about 315,000 gallons from the tanks.

The Superfund site is located just a few hundred yards from the Pollution Control Services offices for Harris County, which includes Houston. Its director, Bob Allen, says his team took pictures of the flooding on Aug. 29, when the area that includes the three big tanks was still underwater. The AP requested those photos as public records, but they have not yet been released.

Allen said his staff did not note any black water or oily sheen on the surface at the time, and did not collect water samples for testing. He said the EPA later sampled the area to determine whether there was contamination.

"We knew that the water probably got into the plant, probably washed out some of the stuff that was in the clarifier," Allen said, referring to one of the old concrete tanks once used to store toxic waste. "Once they get done with the assessment of that site and the other Superfund Harris County sites, then they'll probably let us know, let the public know, what's been going on.

Good Housekeeping

Bring home an heirloom plant: Basic transplanting, cutting, and collecting seeds

By NANCY BRACHEY
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

TNS
It is not hard to bring home memories in the form of seeds or cuttings from special plants taken from a grandmother's or aunt's garden.

A summer trip to the family home place, whether it is in town or in the country, is a memory-maker for families. There they find not only special food and comfy chairs on a front porch made for sitting, they see plants that have been growing around the house practically forever.

These are plants that make memories because their ownership can include generations in a family or represent decades of friendship.

It is not hard to bring home a bit of these memories in the form of seeds or cuttings from special plants taken from a grandmother or aunt's garden.

Thus they become heirloom plants.

When the giver is being generous, some of these heirloom plants — including day lilies, Shasta daises, black-eyed Susans, hostas, irises, Lenten roses and peonies — can be dug up and put into a paper bag to take home. This is basic transplanting. Just sink a shovel into the ground, bring up the root system with stems and leaves attached and put it in a paper bag or pot to take home and replant.

If only a portion of the plant is being given, it can be divided, with roots and stems gently separated and the mother plant replanted. This is particularly useful with perennials that produce clumps with baby plants around their perimeter. Lenten roses are famous for producing seedlings that can easily be dug with a trowel.

Shrubs are a different matter, requiring a technique called cuttings. These shrubs — including spiraeas, viburnums, camellias, hydrangeas, forsythia, and old-fashioned roses — can be propagated by this technique.

Most plants tend to be ready for taking cuttings in early-to-mid-summer, which is just at the time of family reunions. The fresh growth that came out in the spring is now mature but not too woody to cut and root for new plants.

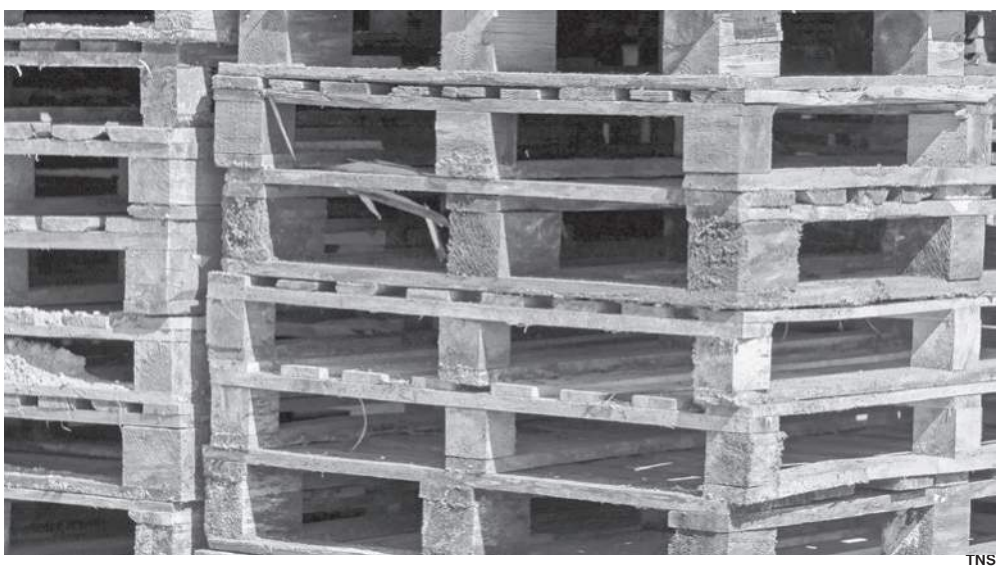
When such cuttings are taken too early, they tend to flop and deteriorate before roots emerge. The tip of the stem might still be a fresh, new green, but down the stem a ways, say 3 to 5 inches, it should be firm enough to use. Use clean, sharp shears for this work to reduce the chance of disease. The cut should be sharp and clean so that it does not crush the stem tissue. Keep the leaves, but if some are quite large, cut them in half to reduce the chance of dehydration during rooting.

Take more than one cutting because this is not foolproof. Opt for side stems instead of the tip ends and do the work in the morning while the plant has more water in its system. Transport the cuttings in a small plastic bag with damp soil or perlite around the roots and put them in a small pot of clean potting soil as soon as possible. Rooting powder is a help with this. Just dip the cut end of the stem into the powder before you put it halfway down into the soil. Water the soil well and keep the pot in a sheltered place, not in a hot, sunny spot.

New leaves will signal that the plant is rooting. As it grows, move it to a larger pot, then eventually to a space in your landscape.

A third method of saving plants is collecting seeds, commonly done with non-hybrid annuals such as sweet peas, cosmos, moon flowers, and zinnias. Look for pods of flowers that have matured. Snip off the pods and store them in a paper bag kept in a cool, dry place until sowing time next spring.

Safety tips for reusing wooden pallets



TNS
The wood in pallets shipped internationally must be treated to prevent the spread of invasive insects and plant diseases. Some are treated with heat, but some still may be coated with the pesticide methyl bromide.

By ROGER SCHLUETER
BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

Q: Our family is having a debate over the use of wooden pallets for projects around the house. I say they are not safe because you do not know what has been shipped on them. Working in retail for more than 40 years, I have seen fertilizer, garden chemicals, paint thinners, etc., shipped on pallets. Do I have a legitimate concern?

A: You most certainly do. The site www.1001pallets.com offers, well, 1,001 ways to recycle, upcycle, reuse and repurpose wooden pallets. After all, an estimated 2 billion are used every day — not counting those just lying around. But despite its help-save-the-environment philosophy, the site urges caution because you may find some (pardon the pun) unpalletable for use around your home.

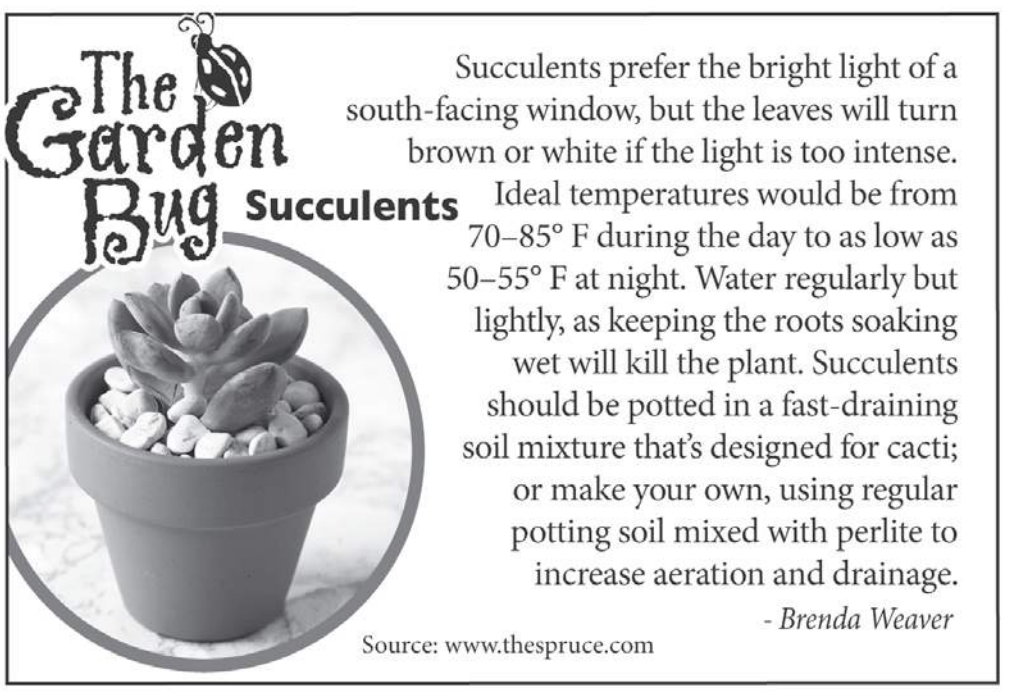
"The first issue is to be careful of what has been spilled on the pallet!" the site warns. "If there are any spills on it, either oil, food or unknown substances, do not use this pallet. It is well known that pallets are used to transport all sorts of nasty products and liquids. It is much safer to use only clean ones and not try to identify what might be on your pallet."

But that's only one worry. How the pallets were made is another, the site cautions. The wood in pallets shipped internationally, for example, must be treated to prevent the spread of invasive insects and plant diseases from one country to another. Some are treated with heat, but some still may be coated with a nasty pesticide, methyl bromide. These pallets must be marked with a logo that tells how they were treated. If you see HT (heat-treated), DB (debarked) or KD (kiln-dried), they're safe to use if otherwise clean. If you see MB (Methyl Bromide), steer clear.

If there are no markings, you're on your own. These are "national pallets" that are used within one country.

"Most of them are not treated with chemicals, so they may be entirely safe," the website says. "But you still have to be careful. I know people who use these pallets safely, but it is better if you can trace where they come from."

I don't mean to put the fear of God into you, but better safe than sorry probably should be your watchwords.


The Garden Bug
Succulents
Succulents prefer the bright light of a south-facing window, but the leaves will turn brown or white if the light is too intense. Ideal temperatures would be from 70–85° F during the day to as low as 50–55° F at night. Water regularly but lightly, as keeping the roots soaking wet will kill the plant. Succulents should be potted in a fast-draining soil mixture that's designed for cacti; or make your own, using regular potting soil mixed with perlite to increase aeration and drainage.
- Brenda Weaver
Source: www.thespruce.com

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Life & Style

Women won big at Emmys, in front of and behind the camera

NEW YORK (AP)—The Emmy statuette depicts a winged woman, and this year's Emmy telecast celebrated a TV season in which women, as never before, were able to soar.

Strong roles about strong women abounded. And they were rewarded. The winning drama series and limited series ("The Handmaid's Tale" and "Big Little Lies," respectively) focused on issues of women—rather than defaulting to the male point of view—as a vivid way to explore the human condition. "Veep," which stars Julia Louis-Dreyfus as the former president of the U.S., won best comedy series.

Women also made inroads behind the camera, with Lena Waithe winning best comedy writer Emmy for "Master of None." She's the first woman winner ever in that category.

For many of the winners as well as many fans who were cheering them on, the Emmycast unfolded as a bracing rebuttal at a time when surveys continue to expose unfair representation by women in Hollywood.

"Let's hope that this is the beginning of something even better in our country and the world," said Louis-Dreyfus, savoring her record-breaking sixth win as Selina Meyer on "Veep." ''I think the world would be a better place if more women were in charge."

"We've made incredible progress, obviously," said Elisabeth Moss, who won the best actress Emmy for her starring role in "The Handmaid's Tale" as one of the few fertile women left in a world ruled by a totalitarian regime that treats women as property.

But she added, "There's still a lot of work to be done. There are still meetings you walk into and wonder if they say 'no' because it's a show by or about a women."

The answer, Moss said, is "not only women in front of the camera but it's women behind the camera."

"Feud: Bette and Joan," starring Susan Sarandon and Jessica Lange in a robust saga of clashing queens of the silver screen, was a promising entry in the Limited Series category.

But "Feud" was edged out by another woman-centric drama, "Big Little Lies," which followed a group of mothers who each have secrets threatening to crash down upon her. The series collected eight Emmys also including best actress (Nicole Kidman), best supporting actress (Laura Dern) and best supporting actor Alexander Skarsgard, who, in accepting his trophy, thanked his colleagues for letting him be "one of the girls."

Indeed, two of the series' executive producers were Kidman and her co-star Reese Witherspoon.

Backstage, Witherspoon voiced delight that "we created four roles for women, and all got nominated."

The characters those women portrayed "were complicated. They were complex," she noted. "They were good and bad."

"What was so wonderful," said Kidman, "is that we had so many people, men and women of different ages, watching the show that went far beyond what we expected. As much as it was about women, it was for everyone."

In accepting her Emmy as one of the series' producers, Kidman implored the industry to create "more great roles for women, please."

But Witherspoon pointed out that "it's great to be the architect of your own destiny, and create material for yourself and . so many roles for women—award-winning roles. It turns out we know how to do it for ourselves!"

In 'Battle of the Sexes,' King passes a baton to Emma Stone

In this Sept. 9, 2017 file photo, Billie Jean King, right, waves to spectators during the opening ceremony for the women›s singles final of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York as actress Emma Stone, left, and USTA CEO Katrina Adams, looked on. Stone portrays King in the film, "Battle of the Sexes." AP

TORONTO (AP)—Walking through a tunnel alongside Billie Jean King at the grounds of the U.S. Open, Emma Stone gasped at the size of its main court.

King, of course, was more familiar with the sprawling tennis center in Queens, New York—it's named after her, after all (the stadium itself is named after another tennis legend, Arthur Ashe). But as accustomed as Stone is to the spotlight, her playing fields are usually private film sets or more intimate television show audiences. In making "Battle of the Sexes," a new film about King's infamous 1973 showdown with Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell), Stone was often both awed and a little jealous of the stages on which King crusaded for sport and for women's rights. (King helped win equal prize money for women at the U.S. Open that same year.)

In tennis, the lines are clear, the scoreboard is final and a landmark victory against sexism could go down in straight sets.

"It's just such a longer conversation in the movie industry," Stone said in an interview shortly after watching the women's finals with King earlier this month, which saw Sloane Stephens capture the trophy. "When I look at a tennis match, whoever wins at the end, the prize money should be equal. There are so many moving parts in how that comes to pass on a film to film basis. But of course things need to be changed."

"Battle of the Sexes," which Fox Searchlight will release Friday, is in some ways a time-traveling experience back to the 1970s and the chauvinism of another era. But the film, directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris, also seems very much of today, coming less than a year after a bruising presidential election often fought over gender lines. And King's fight for pay equality—she helped launch the female-only Virginia Slims tennis circuit after objecting to the disparity between male and female prize money—also has clear reverberations for Hollywood's own issues in compensating men and women equally.

Stone has spoken about pay equality in Hollywood. In July, she said she has previously insisted male co-stars close the pay gap by cutting their salaries. She acted out of inspiration from King and some of her own contemporaries, like Jennifer Lawrence. Lawrence penned an essay in 2015 about pay disparity after emails from the Sony hack revealed she had been paid less than her male co-stars in "American Hustle."

"It becomes a difficult topic just for me because other people might have answers that I haven't come to in fixing the industry at large, but because of the circumstantial nature of it—the way the budgets inflate or go down from movie to movie, or year to year the way a person's career moves," Stone said.

"Every industry should be thinking about that," added the 28-year-old actress. "It's my world. Tennis is Billie Jean's world. But it matters across the board."

Spicer suggests critics of Emmy appearance should lighten up

NEW YORK (AP)—Sean Spicer says his surprise Emmy Awards appearance was a chance to have some fun, and suggested Tuesday that people who were upset by it were taking things too seriously.

Clearly, not everyone was laughing, however. For Emmys host Stephen Colbert, there's also a risk that a joke he engineered could wind up doing collateral damage.

Spicer

The former White House press secretary's cameo was Colbert's idea, and they arranged to maximize the surprise factor through Chris Licht, the Colbert producer who knew Spicer from his background in news. Colbert set the joke up by saying there was no way of knowing how many people would be watching the Emmys, then Spicer wheeled out from behind a podium to say "this will be the largest audience to witness an Emmys period, both in person and around the world."

The clear reference was to Spicer's first appearance in the White House press room, arguing against photographic evidence about how large President Donald Trump's Inauguration Day audience was. (In an unfortunate parallel, Emmy viewership on Sunday essentially tied last year with the smallest ever for the television awards show).

Trump critics resented the apparent effort to "normalize" Spicer and make light of the idea of not telling the truth in the White House press room.

"The message of his presence was not only that we can all laugh at his service and sycophancy in the Trump administration, but that he's willing to laugh with us," wrote Frank Bruni in a column for The New York Times titled "The Shameful Embrace of Sean Spicer at the Emmys."

On "The View," Joy Behar said that if Spicer and other Trump surrogates apologize to the American people, "then I'll have fun with you, Sean."

Liberal commentator Keith Olbermann tweeted that the Emmys lost its credibility by lionizing Spicer. Even a Republican strategist, Kevin Madden, warned on CNN that Spicer should be wary of equating notoriety with respect.

To which Spicer, reached on an airplane on Tuesday, offered a suggestion: lighten up.

"People are reading too much into this," he said. While he respects people's opinions, he said people shouldn't take the appearance that seriously.

Spicer made the rounds of Hollywood parties after the Emmys and was greeted with many people asking for selfies.

Avril Lavigne: Most dangerous celebrity on the internet

NEW YORK (AP)—One-time pop-punk princess Avril Lavigne has beaten superstar Beyonce at something, but she may not be totally happy with her victory—she's been named the most dangerous celebrity on the internet.

Cybersecurity firm McAfee said Tuesday that Lavigne, whose last album came out in 2013, was the most likely celebrity to land users on websites that carry viruses or malware. Searches for Lavigne have a 14.5 percent chance of landing on a web page with the potential for online threats, a number that increases to 22 percent if users type her name and search for free MP3s.

Bruno Mars was second in his debut on the list, followed closely behind by Carly Rae Jepsen. Zayn Malik (No. 4), Celine Dion (No. 5), Calvin Harris (No. 6), Justin Bieber (No. 7), Sean "Diddy" Combs (No. 8), Katy Perry (No. 9) and Beyonce (No. 10) rounded out the top 10 list.

It's a dubious step up for Lavigne, who was ranked No. 2 in 2013. Lavigne, whose hits include "Sk8er Boi," ''Complicated" and "I'm With You," has been out of the spotlight for several years as she battles Lyme disease.

McAfee had a few suggestions for why Lavigne scored so high on the 11th annual list: Interest after the artist said she's working on a new album, a feature story on her by E! Online and an internet conspiracy that she has been replaced by an impostor.

AP
In this Feb. 14, 2016 file photo, Avril Lavigne arrives at the 2016 Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Gala in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Lavigne is the first female musician to take the No. 1 spot and replaced Amy Schumer, named the most dangerous celebrity on the internet in 2016. In 2015, it was Dutch trance DJ van Buuren.

The survey is meant to highlight the danger of clicking on suspicious links. McAfee urges internet users to consider risks associated with searching for downloadable content. The company used its own site ratings to compile the celebrity list and used searches on Google, Bing and Yahoo.

Cambodia selects Angelina Jolie film as Oscar submission

NEW YORK (AP)—Angelina Jolie's "First They Killed My Father" has been named Cambodia's foreign-language submission to the Academy Awards.

The Cambodia Oscar Selection Committee announced the choice Monday, calling Jolie's Cambodian genocide drama "cathartic" and hailing it for bringing back memories "often best forgotten."

Jolie directed the adaptation of Loung Ung's memoir about her childhood during the Khmer Rouge's bloody reign. She shot it in Cambodia with a local cast.

Jolie, whose eldest son, Maddox, was born in Cambodia, has been a citizen of Cambodia since 2005. In an interview with The Associated Press, Jolie said she made the film to "help a country to speak."

Jolie's 2011 Bosnian War drama, "In the Land of Blood and Honey," was also nominated for best foreign-language film by the Golden Globes.

De Niro: Help rebuild Barbuda paradise destroyed by Irma

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Two-time Oscar-winning actor Robert De Niro came to the United Nations on Monday to appeal to all countries and organizations to help rebuild the devastated Caribbean island of Barbuda and ensure that "paradise is not lost."

De Niro spoke at a hastily called meeting on Hurricane Irma, the most powerful Atlantic Ocean hurricane on record. The meeting of top U.N. officials and government leaders from several hard-hit Caribbean countries came ahead of the annual global gathering of the world's leaders at the U.N. General Assembly which opens Tuesday.

Irma wreaked havoc in the Caribbean, including damaging or destroying an estimated 90 percent of the structures on the small island of Barbuda, which is home to about 1,400 people and the site of a resort co-owned by the actor.

De Niro recalled Barbuda as an "unspoiled beauty, a paradise found" on his first visit years ago. Now, he said, "we have a humanitarian crisis, an entire island destroyed."

"We must act together to help the most vulnerable," De Niro said. "The recovery process will be a long, hard road. Barbudans must be a part of it, their homes repaired stronger, rebuilt stronger, new homes stronger. The immediate needs — power, water, food, medical care, animals sheltered — must be met."

De Niro and James Packer, son of the late Australian media mogul Kerry Packer, bought the K Club Resort last year and renamed it the Paradise Found Nobu Resort.

De Niro spoke of all the "warm and friendly" people he has gotten to know on Barbuda who were "looking forward to a new resort and jobs and future for them and their children." He did not say how the hurricane affected the resort.

The governor general of Antigua and Barbuda, Rodney Williams, told the meeting that when Irma thundered through, "immediately Barbuda was rendered uninhabitable."

Nielsen says 11.4 million watch Emmy Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—The Nielsen company estimated that 11.4 million people watched Sunday's presentation of the Emmy Awards, roughly equivalent to last year's show honoring the year's best in television.

Stephen Colbert hosted Sunday's show for CBS. It competed with pro football and the beginning of Ken Burns' lengthy documentary on the Vietnam War. Last year's audience of 11.3 million people was the lowest ever for the Emmy Awards.

The Emmys featured a surprise appearance by former White House press secretary Sean Spicer and a heavy concentration on Trump jokes and remarks. Hulu's "The Handmaids Tale" won the Emmy for best drama, while HBO's "Veep" was named best comedy.

'Babe' actor James Cromwell charged in SeaWorld protest

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Actor James Cromwell has been charged with trespassing for interrupting and denouncing an orca show at SeaWorld in San Diego.

The San Diego Union-Tribune (http://bit.ly/2f6PZ23) reported Monday that the misdemeanor charge could mean 90 days in jail or a fine up to $400.

Cromwell, who was nominated for an Oscar for his role as the farmer in "Babe," has previously said he would serve jail time rather than pay fines. A late message left for his representatives wasn't immediately returned.

He was wearing a "SeaWorld Sucks" T-shirt when he and six other activists stood up in front of the "Orca Encounter" show at SeaWorld on July 24.

Cromwell told park visitors through a megaphone that SeaWorld was condemning the orcas to premature deaths. The protesters were forcibly removed by security.

Despite promise to stop, man resumes watching pornography

DEAR ABBY: Can you tell me why men watch porn? My husband watches porn on the computer at all hours of the night. When I found out about it six months ago, he promised he would stop doing it, but I just realized that he still goes online and watches it when I'm asleep at night and early in the morning.

Our sex life has diminished to almost nothing. I considered blocking the site on his computer, but is that a good idea? Please help me. How can I compete with this?

FEELING DISRESPECTED

DEAR FEELING: Men watch porn because they are turned on by the visual. You have a right to a sex life, but meddling with your husband's computer won't fix your problem. Because your marital needs are not being met, frame your conversation with him that way. He may be addicted to online porn and unable to stop watching without a professional intervention.

P.S. Please stop comparing yourself with what your husband is viewing on screen, because what he is seeing isn't real. It's show business. And it's about as authentic as "Guardians of the Galaxy."

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married 13 years and have two young sons. She's a free spirit. She likes to independently make a lot of decisions that affect us both. This has led to arguments about what should or should not be decided on together.

We have had years of counseling with multiple professionals. Frankly, I feel she ignores my opinions and concerns if I don't agree with her position on an issue. She will commit to a compromise, then turn around and do what she wants anyway.

Recently, she brought up having permanent eyebrow makeup done on an international trip she was taking without me. I asked her to wait until she returned so we could discuss it further before she jumped into it. Despite promising not to, she did it anyway, and I think it looks awful.

I'm left feeling my trust in her has been further damaged and I have a reminder of it staring me in the face on a daily basis. How can I trust her in the future? How can I get past looking at her ugly choice every day?

DISGUSTED IN ARIZONA

DEAR DISGUSTED: If "years of counseling" haven't worked for the two of you, I think it's fair to conclude that you and your wife have a troubled marriage. While some might say that it's your wife's face and what she puts on it is her business, if a daily reminder of her broken promise to you is a deal-breaker, it may be time to consider whether you can forgive her or if it would be in everyone's best interests to go your separate ways. In marriage there is supposed to be compromise. If you are staying because of your sons, take into consideration that because your relationship with your wife is dysfunctional, the tension your boys are exposed to on a daily basis is not healthy.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: At sundown tonight, Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, begins. As we begin this time of solemn introspection, I would like to wish you all "L'shana tova tikatevu"—may you be inscribed in the Book of Life and have a good year.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

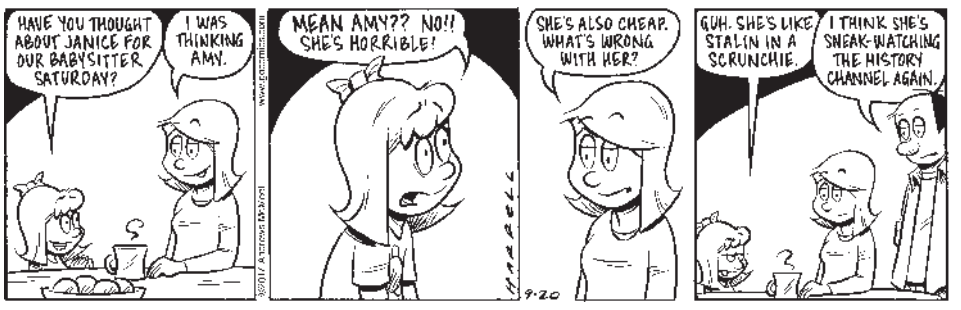
WHAT IF MOM AND DAD WON'T TAKE ME BACK, BECAUSE I SECEDED? WHAT IF THEY TELL ME I CAN'T REJOIN THE FAMILY?
THEY HAVE TO TAKE ME BACK! I'M THEIR STUPID KID, RIGHT?
RIGHT!
...THE OPERATIVE WORD BEING "STUPID."

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

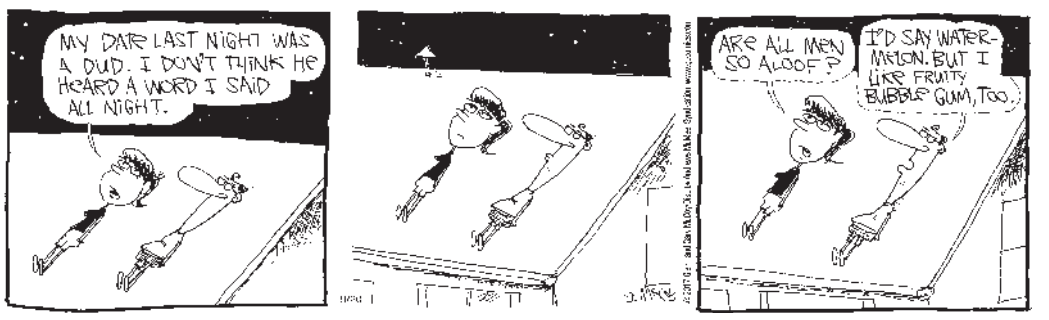
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JANICE FOR OUR BABYSITTER SATURDAY?
I WAS THINKING AMY.
MEAN AMY?? NO!! SHE'S HORRIBLE!
SHE'S ALSO CHEAP. WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
GUH. SHE'S LIKE STALIN IN A SCRUNCHIE.
I THINK SHE'S SNEAK-WATCHING THE HISTORY CHANNEL AGAIN.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


MY DATE LAST NIGHT WAS A DUD. I DON'T THINK HE HEARD A WORD I SAID ALL NIGHT.
ARE ALL MEN SO ALOOF?
I'D SAY WATERMELON. BUT I LIKE FRUITY BUBBLE GUM, TOO.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Silent
4 River deposit
8 Scurry
12 "Eureka!"
13 Ship's staff
14 Reverberate
15 Singer Orbison
16 "Imus in the Morning," e.g.
18 Texas cook-off dish
20 Republicans
21 LAPD alerts
24 Garrisons
28 HBO rival
32 Implement
33 Actress Tyler
34 Prophets
36 — -la-la
37 Related
39 TV fare for a night owl
41 TV, radio, etc.
43 Gambling mecca
44 Pampering, for short
46 Reside
50 Songs from "Carousel," e.g.
55 Salt source
56 Hotel chain
57 iPhone voice
58 Group of whales
59 Gravy vessel
60 Bridge
61 Away from SSW

DOWN
1 Artist Chagall
2 "Oops!"
3 Polite query
4 Screenwriter's creations
5 401(k) alternative
6 Started
7 Tiny branch
8 Tyrant
9 German cry
10 Pi follower
11 AAA job
17 Gut-punch reaction
19 Legislation
22 Actress Jessica
23 Slander
25 Portnoy's creator
26 Matador's foe
27 Cabbage salad
28 Bridge coup
29 Scouting outing
30 "Metamorphoses" poet
31 Deco artist
35 Submits
38 Boob
40 Plant seeds
42 Flight stat
45 Swear
47 "NFL Live" channel
48 Boxer Spinks
49 Stow cargo
50 Cry
51 Med. plan option
52 — whim
53 Pinch
54 Historic period

Solution time: 23 mins.

M	A	T	S		R	O	A	D		I	D	S	
A	T	O	P		O	N	E	I		M	O	O	
I	M	N	O	·	S	U	R	E		K		I	
			H	A	Y	S		I	W	I	N	S	
A	L		I	O			B	A	R	D			
R	E	M	Y		E	V	E	R	Y	D	A	Y	
F	E	W		D	E	I	T	Y		I	R	E	
S	K		P	O	L	E	S		A	N	N	A	
		T	O	M	S			A	N	G	E	R	
M	E	H	T	A		G	A	I	T				
I	V	Y			M	A	L	E	A	R	S		
N	E	O		N	I	L	E		U	P	O	N	
G	N	U		S	A	S	S		P	E	E	L	

Yesterday's answer 9-20

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11	
12			■	13				■	14				
15			■	16				17					
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■	
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27	
28	29	30					31	■	32				
33			■	34				35	■	36			
37			38	■	39				40				
41				42	■	43				■	■	■	
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49	
50	51	52				53	54			■	55		
56				■	57					■	58		
59				■	60					■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Juan Pablo Montoya, 42; Kristen Johnston, 50; Gary Cole, 61; Sophia Loren, 83.

Happy Birthday: A steady pace will take you where you want to go. Refuse to let exciting but unrealistic ideas or proposals cause you to veer in the wrong direction. Having a sound vision will help you execute your plans flawlessly. This is not the year to deviate when you should be keeping your destination in sight and your motives clear. Your numbers are 9, 12, 23, 27, 32, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You can't force things if you want to avoid discord. Work toward the goals you know you can accomplish. Don't waste your time trying to do the impossible. Positive transformation will lead to future prospects. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Work hard, play hard and enjoy the gift of life. Opportunity is within reach if you open your eyes and take advantage of what's available. It's up to you to make the changes necessary to live life your own way. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look for opportunities that will encourage you to get ahead. Form partnerships and try doing things differently and you will excel. Take care of any matters concerning institutions. Positive change, kindness and understanding will encourage happiness and satisfaction. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Share your thoughts and feelings with those you are closest to and you will find out where you stand and who is going to be by your side. Honesty coupled with well-thought-out solutions will put you in a good position. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Don't let criticism slow you down. Instead, consider how you can use the information to benefit you. Your ability to give others the benefit of the doubt and to find the positives in any situation will serve you well. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Gather pertinent information and pick and choose what works best for you. If you are detailed in what you do, you will succeed in making a point that will reverberate with those you wish to influence. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Refuse to let your emotions take over. If you don't like what's going on around you, find an alternative solution that makes sense and will help restore balance and equality between yourself and those you are dealing with. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Your emotions will catch you off guard. It's OK to share what's on your mind. The suggestions made will encourage you to make whatever changes are necessary to help release you from any negativity that's holding you back. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A little ray of sunshine will go a long way. Spread optimism and positive thoughts, but don't lie or offer false hope. Maintaining balance and integrity in all that you do will help you build a good reputation. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take care of your personal business. Do what you can from home. Be cautious about sharing information with someone you know little about. Unclutter your life. Get rid of items you no longer use or need. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* If you crave change, consider what will satisfy your desire and make it happen. Talking about what you want to do but not following through will leave you feeling dissatisfied. Follow your heart and your dream until you reach your goal. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* A little soul-searching will help you redirect your energy into something meaningful. Being mindful of others will help you see your own situation with greater clarity. Offer practical help and solutions to those facing challenges or loss. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are practical, stubborn and intense. You are judicious and reassuring.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			7	6	1			
		4			9			
	8			3				
5				9				
4				8			1	2
9					7	8		6
	9							3
		5					7	
			3	4	5	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	7	8	3	2	1	5	9
3	8	1	5	7	9	6	4	2
9	2	5	4	6	1	8	7	3
7	5	3	2	9	8	4	6	1
6	9	4	7	1	3	2	8	5
8	1	2	6	5	4	9	3	7
2	3	8	9	4	7	5	1	6
1	4	6	3	2	5	7	9	8
5	7	9	1	8	6	3	2	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DUMP TRUCKS Solution: 6 letters

T	R	T	C	E	D	O	O	H	T	R	A	E	Y	L
I	R	E	A	H	T	N	R	A	I	S	E	V	O	F
P	E	A	L	I	I	A	R	D	I	N	A	N	E	E
P	E	G	N	I	L	P	R	O	S	E	G	N	S	N
E	A	M	A	S	A	G	P	B	H	N	D	E	D	O
R	G	X	A	B	F	R	A	E	I	E	O	D	D	I
N	R	W	L	R	R	E	T	T	R	V	E	W	N	T
I	A	I	E	E	F	A	R	S	E	M	Y	T	O	C
L	V	R	V	I	G	O	G	T	O	R	O	Ⓡ	I	U
U	E	E	L	E	P	N	L	L	E	N	Ⓞ	O	S	R
A	L	T	R	S	I	A	I	V	S	Ⓐ	P	H	N	T
P	E	G	N	L	H	T	I	T	Ⓓ	L	E	S	E	S
R	G	A	U	P	I	L	E	M	E	D	N	A	T	N
A	R	A	S	O	E	E	X	H	A	U	S	T	X	O
T	H	A	N	D	L	E	D	E	P	I	T	N	E	C

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Aggregate, Asphalt, Axle, Centipede, Chipper, Construction, Delivery, Demolition, Earth, Exhaust, Extension, Fenders, Filter, Frame, Garbage, Gravel, Hauling, Heavy, Hinged, Hood, Horn, Lever, Long, Open, Raise, Road, Sand, Short, Snow, Steel, Tailgate, Tandem, Tarpaulin, Tipper, Tons, Trailer, Transfer, Transporting, Vibrate, Wire

Yesterday's Answer: Propane

Treasuries 13 through 28 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: By and large

BUSINESS SPACE FOR RENT

Located in San Jose between Express Financial and Payless Shoe Source For inquiries, Call Mr. Jung at 287-1000

share the power of a wish.
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Visit us at: Make-A-Wish Guam
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Tel: (670) 483-9474 • Email: info@guam.wish.org
www.guam.wish.org
Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

General Mechanic (1) - Minimium of 5 years professional experience as general mechanic, repairs and maintains physical structures of the facility, repairs of vehicles, office machines and equipments, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, air condition, and all other equipments of the company. Rate $6.55 to $7.50/hr.

Interested applicants can mail their resume at P.O. Box 7788 SVRB, Saipan MP 96950 or may email to saipan@americopters.com.
No phone calls please.

Micro Beach Hotel/Apartment
(Across Hyatt Hotel)

Room Available for Rent

4th floor ($400/per month)
3rd floor ($500/per month)
2nd floor ($600/per month)
$25/per person for water, power not included

Special Hotel Room Rate for CNMI & Local Resident
$50 Tax included
For more information call Tel: 233-1388/1368

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI
sunocyo

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Receptionist/Administrator Assistant

The Receptionist/Administrative Assistance is responsible for a diverse range of activities to regulate and enhance the daily operations of our organization located in **Saipan**. These includes:

- Managing reception; incoming telephone calls, visitors, couriers, staff whereabouts
- Controlling correspondence, incoming and outgoing mail, electronic data
- Assist with managing office supply requisitions
- Managing project files, design and maintain project filing systems
- Managing quality, record tracking, document control, process compliance
- Maintain office equipment
- Must be computer proficient
- Light accounting experience a plus
- Assisting our Contracts Administrator with various tasks
- Assisting our Customer Support Care Specialist with various Tasks

We are looking for a detailed orientated individual with a great work ethic to become a part of our growing team in our Saipan Office. Hours are 8 AM to 5 PM Monday thru Friday. This is a great opportunity with a growing company with upside and growth potential
Only serious applicants apply. Please submit your resume to tvoacolo@micronesiarenewableenergy.com

MICRONESIA RENEWABLE ENERGY INC. | CNMI
sunocyo

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SOLAR ENERGY SALES SPECIALIST

BECOME PART OF THIS NEW AND EXCITING INDUSTRY ON SAIPAN HELP SAVE THE PLANET WHILE MAKING A LOT OF MONEY!!!

Looking for a career in a thriving industry? The solar industry is booming and we are growing quickly within it. We are looking for people who want to grow with the company and thrive in a competitive environment. If you have a proven track record for success, we want you on our team.

We have immediate openings for career minded individuals who offer skills and abilities in direct sales.

Successful candidates will inform and educate homeowners on the benefits of solar energy

Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Work with team to generate, respond to and follow up with prospective customers
- Educate customers about the benefits of going solar
- Analyze and anticipate a prospective customer's solar knowledge and needs
- Create and present various proposals to potential customers

JOB REQUIREMENTS

- Exceptional interpersonal skills including verbal communication and listening skills
- Must demonstrate professionalism when interacting with customers, clients and team members
- Must have "track record" for success as demonstrated by previous work experience
- Strong mathematical skills including critical thinking and problem solving
- Leadership experience preferred (school, organizational, and sports leadership also accepted)
- Inside/Outside sales experience preferred
- Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word/Excel)
- Capable to work individually and in a team environment

Additional Skills Required...

- Ambitious
- Goal Oriented
- Results Driven
- Team Oriented
- Self Accountable
- Adaptable

Benefits / Compensation:

- Motivated to earn $50,000.00+ per year

Very attractive base pay plus commissions

Fuel and cell phone reimbursement

- No cap on commissions
- Free Training provided by the best in the industry
- Medical, Dental, Benefits

$1,000.00 Signing bonus after your 90 day probational period

Please email your resume/work experience to Jvoacolo@micronesiarenewableenergy.com

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Job Purpose:
Maximizes return on financial assets by establishing financial policies, procedures, controls, and reporting systems.

Duties:

- Guides financial decisions by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing policies and procedures.
- Protects assets by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing internal controls.
- Monitors and confirms financial condition by conducting audits; providing information to external auditors.
- Prepares budgets by establishing schedules; collecting, analyzing, and consolidating financial data; recommending plans.
- Achieves budget objectives by scheduling expenditures; analyzing variances; initiating corrective actions.
- Provides status of financial condition by collecting, interpreting, and reporting financial data.
- Prepares special reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing information and trends.
- Complies with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying existing and new legislation; anticipating future legislation; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing financial reports; advising management on needed actions.
- Completes operational requirements by scheduling and assigning employees; following up on work results.
- Maintains financial staff by recruiting, selecting, orienting, and training employees.
- Maintains professional and technical knowledge by attending educational workshops; reviewing professional publications; establishing personal networks; participating in professional societies.
- Protects operations by keeping financial information and plans confidential.
- Prepare income taxes for all entities.
- Prepares monthly financial statements.
- Reviews work of the accounting staff.
- Contributes to team effort by accomplishing related results as needed.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Managing Processes, Financial Software, Developing Standards, Audit, Accounting, Corporate Finance, Tracking Budget Expenses, Financial Skills, Analyzing Information , Developing Budgets, Performance Management.
- Strong analytical and communication skills.
- Knowledge of financial reporting systems preferably Quickbooks.
- Knowledge of Excel.

Employer Preference: Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

ACHUGAO SERVICES, LLC
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) Bookkeeper

Duties:

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- Prepare bank deposits, verify and balance receipts, handle payroll, prepare invoices and keep track of overdue accounts.
- Monitor loans and payments, balance and reconcile billing vouchers, and enter code transactions according to company accounting procedures.
- Maintain general ledger and subsidiary accounts by verifying, allocating, and posting transactions.
- Balance subsidiary accounts by reconciling entries.
- Balance general ledger by preparing a trial balance; reconciling entries.
- Maintain historical records by filing documents and scanning documents to server.
- Prepare financial reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing account information and trends.
- Comply with federal, state, and local legal requirements by studying requirements; enforcing adherence to requirements; filing reports; advising management on needed actions.

Skills/Qualifications:

- Employer Preference: Knowledge in Excel, MC Word, Power Point programs. Must have a minimum of two (2) years work experience in accounting. Must have thorough knowledge of QuickBooks Accounting System. Must work with minimal or no supervision. Must have own transportation to and from the workplace. US citizen or green card holder preferred. Looking to hire immediately.

Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd., Garapan, Saipan or email to Tania Mesa, HR Manager at: tania.mesa@bccnmi.com. Deadline to submit application will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

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Red Sox keep 3-game lead against Yankees

BALTIMORE (AP)—Roaring from behind and then finally winning in extra innings, the Boston Red Sox did more than merely maintain their lead in the AL East.

They showed their mettle, a characteristic that should come in handy during the postseason.

Andrew Benintendi hit a two-run single in the 11th inning, Mookie Betts had four RBI and Boston beat the Baltimore Orioles 10-8 Monday night for their ninth win in 12 games.

Xander Bogaerts homered and scored three runs for the Red Sox, who remained three games ahead of the second-place Yankees in the AL East and reduced to four their magic number for clinching a playoff berth.

Boston erased a five-run deficit with a six-run fifth inning and needed 10 pitchers to beat a skidding Orioles team that has now lost 10 of 12.

"This is a big one, being down early and coming back," Benintendi said. "Obviously it's a good win, but it's kind of a character win. Everybody contributed tonight."

After three walks—one intentional—off Miguel Castro (3-2) loaded the bases in the 11th, Benintendi hit a grounder past diving second baseman Jonathan Schoop to give Boston its major-league leading 14th extra-inning win against three defeats.

"That's one of the reasons we stand here today," manager John Farrell said.

Matt Barnes (7-3) pitched the 10th and Carson Smith got three outs for his first save.

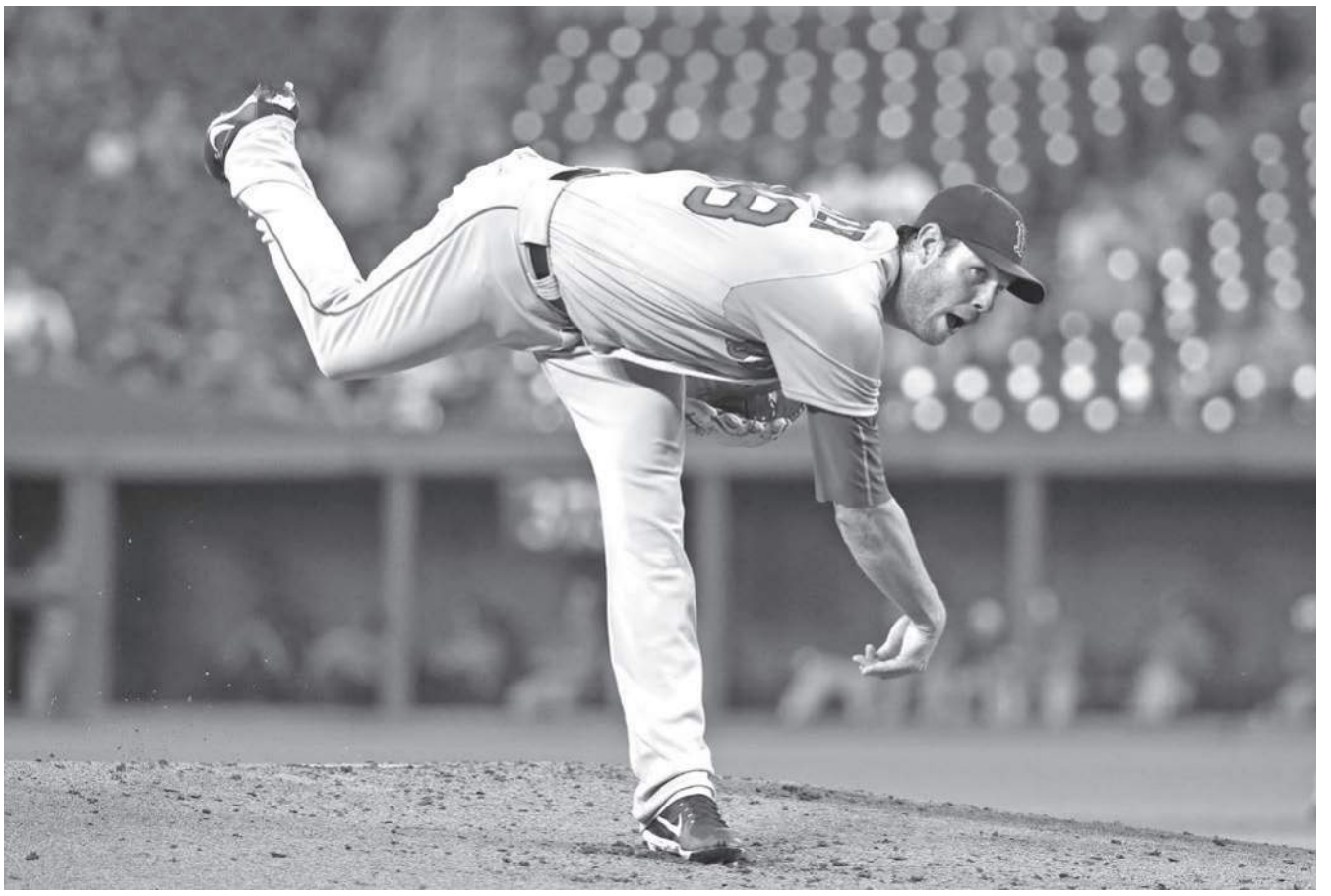
"Our group has such grit, such determination, such competiveness," Farrell said. "There's no quit in them.

Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia left in the fourth inning after being struck in the face by a foul ball he chopped off the plate. The team described the injury as a bruised nose and listed his availability as day to day.

It was the second freak injury Pedroia sustained at Camden Yards this season. On April 21, the All-Star was spiked on a late slide by Manny Machado, a play that created bad blood between the teams into May.

Baltimore built a 5-0 lead against Doug Fister over the first three innings, taking advantage of five walks and getting a two-run double from rookie Austin Hays.

After Betts hit an RBI double in the fourth, Adam Jones countered with a run-scoring single in the bottom half. But the 6-1 advantage vanished in the fifth under a torrent of six hits against Dylan Bundy and two Baltimore relievers.



AP

Boston Red Sox starting pitcher Doug Fister follows through on a pitch to the Baltimore Orioles in the second inning of a baseball game in Baltimore, Monday, Sept. 18, 2017.

The key blows in the six-run inning were a two-run double by Brock Holt -- Pedroia's replacement -- and a bases-loaded double by Betts that scored all three runners.

"It was just that one inning. I let things slip away from me," Bundy said. "I didn't really limit the damage very well, obviously. I was just leaving balls over the middle of the plate and they made me pay for them."

Pedro Alvarez homered in the bottom half and Tim Beckham put Baltimore back in front with a two-out RBI double .

"We find a way to build a big inning, we give it right back and then from that point on the bullpen is outstanding," Farrell said.

The see-saw leveled in the seventh when Bogaerts homered off Donnie Hart to make it 8-all.

Yankees 2, Twins 1

In New York, Aaron Judge hit his 44th home run, Aroldis Chapman pitched out of big trouble in the eighth inning and the Yankees edged Minnesota to increase their AL wild-card lead.

New York won the opener of a three-game series that could serve as a preview to the AL wild-card matchup in two weeks.

The Yankees trail AL East-leading Boston by three games, and hold a five-game edge over the Twins for league's top wild card with 12 to play.

Chapman replaced a wild Dellin Betances with the bases loaded and one out in the eighth. The left-hander struck out three-time batting champion Joe Mauer and retired Byron Buxton on a fly, then closed for his 19th save.

Judge homered in the first off Ervin Santana (15-8). David Robertson (9-2) retired all four hitters he faced, improving to 5-0 since the Yankees reacquired him from the Chicago White Sox in July.

Marlins 13, Mets 1

In Miami, Giancarlo Stanton hit his 55th homer—and his first in nine days—while driving in four runs to help Miami beat the Mets.

Batting third for the first time this year, Stanton hit a three-run line drive into the home run sculpture at Marlins Park in the fourth inning against Matt Harvey (5-6). With that, the MLB home run leader ended a drought of 29 at-bats without one.

Stanton's homer total is the highest since Ryan Howard hit 58 in 2006. Stanton added a run-scoring single in Miami's seven-run fifth.

The Marlins, back home after a trip extended by three games due to Hurricane Irma, won for only the fourth time in the past 21 games.

Dan Straily (10-9) gave up one run in five innings and struck out eight.

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 2

In San Diego, Hunter Renfroe hit a three-run home run in his first game back from Triple-A and Austin Hedges also connected for the San Diego Padres, who beat NL wild card leader Arizona.

Renfroe drove a 1-1 pitch from lefty Patrick Corbin to straightaway center field with two outs in the first, his 11th. He was demoted to Triple-A El Paso on Aug. 18 to work on his hitting.

Corbin (14-13) retired the first two batters before allowing Wil Myers' double that bounced over the fence in left-center. The pitcher then walked Yangervis Solarte before Renfroe connected.

Hedges homered to left-center on a 3-1 pitch with one out in the second, his 18th.

The Diamondbacks closed the gap in the third with RBI singles by David Peralta and J.D. Martinez off Luis Perdomo (8-10).

Brad Hand pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

Phillies 4, Dodgers 3

In Philadelphia, Aaron Altherr became the first big leaguer to hit a grand slam off Clayton Kershaw, leading Philadelphia over NL West-leading Los Angeles.

Kershaw (17-4) fell to 3-5 in his career against the Phillies.

Nick Pivetta (6-10) rebounded from a shaky start. Chris Taylor led off the game with an inside-the-park homer and Justin Turner followed with a drive over the wall.

Curtis Granderson homered in the ninth before Hector Neris got his 22nd save.

Former Phillies star Chase Utley went 0 for 2, striking out twice. He drew a standing ovation before his first at-bat and loud cheers throughout the evening.

Brewers 3, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Brent Suter pitched five efficient innings, Ryan Braun homered and Milwaukee beat Pittsburgh.

The Brewers are two games behind Colorado for the second wild-card spot and 3 1/2 games in back of the NL Central-leading Cubs.

Suter (3-2) allowed five hits. Corey Knebel pitching the ninth for his 36th save in 41 tries.

Braun's solo shot, his 17th of the season, came off Jameson Taillon (7-7).

Athletics 8, Tigers 3

In Detroit, Tigers reliever Jeff Ferrell left in the eighth inning after being hit in the head by a line drive off the bat off Ryon Healy measured at 102.6 mph.

Ferrell never went down, and instead immediately jogged toward the Detroit dugout. He was taken to a hospital for a precautionary CT scan. He was alert, responsive and walking under his own power, the Tigers announced after the game.

Matt Olson became the first Oakland player to homer in four straight games since Coco Crisp in 2013, and now has 14 home runs in his last 20 games.

Liam Hendriks (4-2) got the win with 1 2/3 scoreless innings. Buck Farmer (4-4) took the loss.

Home run record on track to fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton's smacks, Aaron Judge's jolts and all those dizzying long balls helped Major League Baseball move another poke closer to the inevitable.

Nearly two decades after the height of the Steroids Era, the sport is on track to break its season record for home runs on Tuesday—and not just top the old mark, but smash it like one of those upper-deck shots that have become commonplace in the Summer of the Slugger.

There were 5,677 home runs hit through Monday, 16 shy of the record set in 2000.

Juiced balls? Watered-down pitching? Stanton's renaissance? Sensational starts by Judge and Cody Bellinger?

"I don't think that we are ever going to have a single explanation for exactly why we've see so many," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said. "But players are bigger and stronger. They're playing a little differently, in terms of the way they swing. Pitchers throw harder. The one thing I remain comfortable with: Nothing about the baseball, according to our testing, is materially different."

There were 5,610 homers last year, an average of 2.31 per game, and this year's average of 2.53 projects to 6,139. That would be up 47 percent from 4,186 in 2014.

In just three years, home runs will have increased by 1,953—an extra 149 miles of long balls at this year's average home run length of 400 feet, or 15 miles more than the driving distance between Philadelphia's Citizen's Bank Park and Washington's Nationals Park.

"The game has changed," New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "From when I started, there's a lot less stolen bases, there's a lot less bunting, there's a lot less hitting-and-running. You don't give outs away, and you let guys swing the bat."

Already 108 players have hit 20 homers this year, just two shy of the record set last season—and up from 64 in 2015, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"The ball seems to soar from people that are hitting it farther than maybe they did a year ago ... and they kind of look like the same person," Minnesota manager Paul Molitor, a Hall of Famer hitter, said before Monday night's game at Yankee Stadium.

Along with sailing shots come strikeouts, which will set a record for the 10th consecutive year. There were 37,083 whiffs through Monday, an average of 8.25 per team per game that translates to 40,103 over the full season.

Stafford throws for 2 TDs as Lions beat Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—So far, so good for Matthew Stafford and the Detroit Lions. Eli Manning and the New York Giants are heading in the opposite direction.

Stafford threw for two touchdowns, rookie Jamal Agnew broke the game open with an 88-yard punt return and the Lions beat the Giants 24-10 on Monday night.

The Lions (2-0) sacked Eli Manning five times and Stafford put together another big game while sending the Giants (0-2) to a second straight disappointing performance. Star receiver Odell Beckham Jr. returned from a sprained left ankle, but New York still struggled offensively.

"We did a nice job of getting in the end zone early and our defense did what they do," Stafford said.

Stafford found Marvin Jones for a 27-yard touchdown in the first quarter and passed to Eric Ebron for a go-ahead 7-yarder in the second. Matt Prater added a 56-yard field goal just before halftime that bounced off the upright, helping the Lions to a 17-7 lead at the break.

AP

New York Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham (13) leaps over Detroit Lions' Glover Quin (27) as Jarrad Davis (40) watches during the first half of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 18, 2017, in East Rutherford, N.J.

Ezekiel Ansah had three sacks as Detroit joined Atlanta and Carolina as the only unbeaten teams in the NFC through Week 2. The Lions made the playoffs last season, but finished the year with four straight losses.

Beckham, a three-time Pro Bowler who missed the season opener, had four catches for 36 yards in limited action.

Manning threw an 18-yard touchdown pass to Evan Engram on the first play of the second quarter, but the rookie tight end was called for unsportsmanlike conduct for a seemingly obscene gesture. It allowed the Lions to get the ball at the Giants 45 after the kickoff went out of bounds and Stafford drove them for a second score.

New York closed to 17-10 on Aldrick Rosas' 25-yard field goal early in the second half, but it wasted a chance for a TD. The Giants had first-and-goal at the 1 and then got pushed back to the 11 on a holding penalty on a first-down run.

"We talked about playing complete, complimentary football. By no stretch of the imagination did we do that tonight," said Ben McAdoo, who led the Giants to their first playoff berth since 2011 last season in his first year as head coach. "We've got to do better. We've dug ourselves in a hole. No one feels sorry for us. We've got to find a way to get better and get better in a hurry."

Agnew then helped clinch the game for Detroit with his big return with 12:56 left, faking out New York punter Brad Wing on his way to the end zone. It was the fifth-longest punt return in team history.

Manning was 22 for 32 for 239 yards for New York, while Stafford was 15 for 21 for 122 yards. The NFL's highest-paid player threw for four touchdowns in Detroit's season-opening victory against Arizona.

Lions SS Tavon Wilson (shoulder) left in the second half. ... The Giants lost starting RT Bobby Hart on the opening series. LG Justin Pugh moved to tackle and Brett Jones replaced him. Giants also played without starters MLB B.J. Goodson (lower leg) and CB Janoris Jenkins (ankle-hand). Backup LB J.T. Thomas (groin) was ruled out early in the second half.

Belgium vs France in Davis Cup finals

PARIS (AP)—David Goffin and Steve Darcis won their reverse singles matches as Belgium came from behind to defeat 28-time champion Australia 3-2 in the Davis Cup semifinals last weekend, setting up a title match with France in November.

Back with the French team, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga earlier sent his country to its 18th final by defeating Serbia's Dusan Lajovic 2-6, 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-2 in Lille. Around 100 kilometers (62 miles) away in Brussels, Belgium recovered from a 2-1 deficit on the indoor clay of the Palais 12.

France will host the final from Nov. 24-26 on a surface yet to be announced.

With Tsonga's win, the French reached an unassailable 3-1 lead and the teams decided against playing the final rubber.

Belgium trailed after Saturday's doubles but managed to turn things around in front of a buoyant crowd. David Goffin first rallied past Nick Kyrgios 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 before Steve Darcis defeated Jordan Thompson 6-4, 7-5, 6-2.

"It was so tough in the beginning," said Belgium captain John van Herck. "Kyrgios was so tough, but David hung in and I think from then on we changed a little bit the momentum. It was a career-defining win for David. The way he played was unbelievable. All credit to Kyrgios and Thompson but I think we played unbelievable tennis."

Goffin, who had not beaten Kyrgios in three previous matches, returned well and played astute tennis to counter his opponent's big shots, extending his excellent Davis Cup record to 15 wins from 16 singles matches.

Goffin dropped his serve only once and fell onto his back after hitting two aces in succession to serve out the match after a three-hour battle.

"Everything is in the timing, I think," Goffin said about his returns, adding "I see the ball earlier than the others so maybe that's why I have a good return."

Darcis was set to take on John Millman in the decisive rubber but Australia captain Lleyton Hewitt changed his lineup to send Thompson instead. The move did not pay off as Darcis put on a dominant display, converting five of seven breakpoints. He hit 34 winners and sealed the match on his first chance with a backhand volley that hit the net cord.

France avenged its loss to Serbia in the 2010 final and qualified for its first final since losing to Switzerland three years ago.

France won the last of its nine titles in 2001 against the Australians while Belgium will be chasing its first trophy in the team event after losing two finals.

Leishman wins BMW Championship, eyes $10M

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—Marc Leishman put the finishing touches on his best year in golf and already was looking ahead to make it even better.

With his wire-to-wire, five-shot victory in the BMW Championship his first tournament after losing a two-shot lead on the back nine at the TPC Boston—Leishman now is in range to capture the FedEx Cup and its $10 million bonus this week at East Lake in the Tour Championship.

All he has to do is win.

Leishman not only won for the second time this year, he has the No. 4 seed this week for the FedEx Cup finale. While everyone in the 30-man field has a mathematical chance of claiming golf's richest prize, the top five seeds only have to win to capture the cup.

The way Leishman has been playing, it doesn't seem out of reach.

At his side were two trophies—one from the BMW Championship, the other from the Western Golf Association, which has run this tournament since 1899.

"I had my sights set high for the FedEx Cup and trying to get into the top 5 and with these sitting here," he said, pausing to glance at the silver trophies, "if I have another good week, who knows what might happen?"

So after 46 tournaments, the FedEx Cup comes down to one week.

British Open champion Jordan Spieth, PGA champion Justin Thomas, Dustin Johnson, Leishman and Jon Rahm of Spain are the top five seeds.

For some players, they were just happy to be there.

Xander Schauffele started the year by missing six of 11 cuts and finishing inside the top 25 just once -- he tied for 24th at the Wells Fargo Championship in early May. Back then, he was only thinking about keeping his card in his rookie season.

He tied for fifth at the U.S. Open. He won The Greenbrier Classic. He was in position to achieve a lofty goal—East Lake—at No. 32 in the FedEx Cup until he began the final round with 10 pars and two bogeys.

"I told my caddie, `I really don't want the year to end, we're having so much fun," he said.

And then golf got really fun. Schauffele birdied the next two holes, drove the 15th green and made a 30-foot eagle putt , birdied the 16th and then added a final birdie on the 18th for a 4-under 67 that moved him into the top 30.

"Once you reach goals, you make new ones," he said. "And I've been making a lot of new ones."

Patrick Cantlay, another PGA Tour rookie, had been out of golf for three years with a back injury he feared might end his career, along with the emotional scars of seeing his best friend and caddie, Chris Roth, struck and killed by a car as they walked to dinner.

He picked a light schedule this year to ease his way back into golf, and to cope with an ankle injury from so much play. In just 11 tournaments, he made it to the Tour Championship, and it wasn't easy. Cantlay was outside the top 30 coming to the par-5 18th and needed a birdie when he reached the green in two. But his 50-foot eagle putt came up 10 feet short. He calmly rolled that in to barely moved into the top 30.

Along with playing the Tour Championship, Cantlay is assured a spot in the Masters, U.S. Open, British Open and most likely the PGA Championship.

"I figured a birdie would be close," he said. "I didn't know it would for sure get me in, but I knew it was really close and I definitely needed it."

Tony Finau was behind the 18th green in three, and if he failed to get up-and-down, he would fall out of the top 30 after one of his best rounds of the year. He chipped in for birdie and is on his way to East Lake for the first time.

The fourth player to move into the top 30 was Masters champion Sergio Garcia, who injected more drama into the final hole than was necessary.

NMA releases schedule of remaining road races

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics released its final list of road races for the remaining months of the year, starting with the three-leg All Schools Cross Country Series that will begin on Sept. 23 at 4pm at the Airport Field in Dandan.

All three legs will be held at the Airport Road with the second one set for Oct. 7 and the last for Oct. 28. The finals will be on Nov. 11 at 7am with the venue to be announced before the day of the race.

The Annual Mt. Tapochao Turkey Trot Fun Run, the 34th edition of the 4.2-mile race, will again be held at 6am on Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 23.

Registration fees are $5 for youth participants and $10 for adult runners who will compete for turkeys that would be given away to the Under-12, U18, Open, 40-49, and Over-50 first place winners.

The 36th Annual Christmas Island Relay is next on Dec. 23, Saturday, with teams of five racers alternately running at least close to two miles. Squads must have one runner 40 years old or over and a female or youth member. Team fees are $25 or $5 for each member.

There is also an individual category and open division in the relay with participants doing the entire 13.7-mile run from the south parking lot of the Pacific Islands Club-Saipan in san Antonio to the Last Command Post in Marpi. Registration starts at 5:30am at the PIC parking lot and the race begins at 6am.

"It is our hope that the schools and community take advantage of this opportunity as we work together towards building a healthy and vibrant community. We look forward to [everyone's] participation again in these events," said NMA official Elias Rangamar.

For more information on the NMA's final races, call Rangamar at 2876347 or email eli_rang@yahoo.com or Robin Sapong at 2879037 or at rsapong@gmail.com.

In other news, Oceania Athletics Association is now accepting applications from their member federations for the Women Deliver Young Leaders Program, which would give youth advocates an opportunity to strengthen their advocacy capacity and skills.

It is a two-year program that can be completed even when you are in your home country. The program includes digital university, speakers bureau, grant opportunities, women deliver global conference, media opportunities and training, direct in-country advocacy, and alumni network and mentorship opportunities.

The program will accept young people—regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or national origin—from ages 15 to 28. Applicants must know how to speak and write English proficiently, and must have a regular internet access.

The program is free and deadline for submission of applications is on Oct. 13. Check out http://womendeliver.org/youth/young-leaders-program-detail/ for additional information.

START THEM YOUNG CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Young bowlers pose for a photo before taking their turns at the lanes during a tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center last month.

GREEN

From Page 28

in the pivotal third period, which started with his squad behind, 35-40. Umali registered 12 points in the penultimate frame to lift Spigen to an 11-point advantage, entering the final canto. Dick Tibayan, Robert Sanciangco, and Bruce Berline helped out in the third-quarter turnaround, too, combining for 18 of Spigen's 36 points in that canto. Umali went on to finish a game-high 21 points, while Pagarao, Sanciangco, and Berline also logged double figures with 16, 13, and 11, respectively.

Barbo paced White Haus with his 25 points, while Tabora contributed 18.

In the second game, Green Minded had the lead right from the get-go and kept going en route to its 24-point winning margin.

Ivan Devero top-scored for Green Minded with his 25 points, while three of his teammates also broke into double figures. Eduardo Armia added 15, while J.R. Barrios and Edwin Santos posted 13 and 10, respectively. Errol Peredo had 19 markers on a losing effort for Team Sawi.

First Game

Spigen 89 — Umali 31, Pagarao 16, Sanciangco 13, Berline 11, Tibayan 6, Tobias 4, Flores 3, Cortez 2.

White Haus 82— Barbo 25, Tabora 18, Mateo 11, Quizon 9, Cando 8, Ocampo 4, Hernandez 3, Nonato 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-22, 35-40, 71-59, 89-82.

Second Game

Green Minded 86 — Devero 25, Armia 15, Barrios 13, Santos 10, Dela Cruz 7, Tibayan 5, Omampo 5, Itaas 4.

Team Sawi 62 — Peredo 19, Directo 15, Concepcion 13, Gragasin 9, Seralde 4, Factor 2, Garcia 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-9, 38-28, 62-50, 86-62.

MANGLONA

From Page 28

page when he faced McKlane "The Game" Alfred of Vida MMA Guam in one of the three title fights held at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe. Though coming from a layoff, he successfully defended his Trench Warz flyweight belt when he defeated Alfred by referee stoppage with only 23 seconds left in the first round of the opener of the triple title matches.

"I did not have any MMA fights for quite some time and just had a couple of boxing and kickboxing matches in Guam. I fought a Japanese and another one from Guam," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* moments after improving his record to 5-1.

It was Manglona's fourth straight win since losing his MMA debut via armbar submission against Josh "Chaos" Duenas in the 1:47 mark of the first round in Trench Warz 17: Night of Champions last Dec. 13, 2013. The weekend bout was his first MMA fight since beating Guam Muay Thai/Underworld Extreme's Scott "Da Slaya" Eclavea by split decision in Pacific Xtreme Combat 22 in Guam last March 18, 2016. It was also his first time to defend the 125-lb. belt.

Alfred, meanwhile, suffered his fourth loss in seven matches and third straight since beating Mark "The Dark" Nuique of the CNMI by rear-naked choke submission in Pacific Xtreme Combat 44 on June 27, 2014.

Manglona is a boxer at heart that's why he could go toe-to-toe in stand-up fighting and can trade punches with any opponent.

"I am a boxer first before getting into MMA. I learned boxing when I was a 14-year-old in Guam. Then I shifted to kickboxing. I got into MMA when I met Cuki [Alvarez] and the guys at Trench Tech Gym. I got hooked after that," said Manglona.

"I always have the same game plan of using my boxing skills, but I improved on my ground fighting and that helped me a lot in most of my fights."

In his match against Alfred last Friday, his opponent came out aggressive and initially dictated the tempo. The Guam fighter, who was eight inches shorter than Manglona, quickly buckled down to work and attempted to force a submission win. But Manglona maneuvered his way out of the choke hold and when Alfred let his guard down and the former saw an opening, the Trench Tech standout pounded away and won by RSC.

"I know that he's a ground fighter, he has a purple belt in jiu-jitsu. So I waited for any opening and when I saw the chance, I pounced on it," he added.

What's next for Manglona? "Well, I would just wait for any fight Cuki or my team would give me. But, I'm always ready for anything," he said.

CNMI

From Page 28

with the team's performance during the first half. Although Thailand scored lesser goals against us than Indonesia, I think they played much stronger than the Indonesian side. They can find gaps and the potential of their players is very good," Mita said.

Against Thailand, Mita nearly used the same first 11 with goalkeeper Jason Quimzon leading the roster. He was joined on the starting lineup by team captain Sebastien Manabat, Joshua Mendez, Kirt Andon, Ichiro Borja, John Michael Rojas, Mark Esalan, Terrance Montenegro, and Eun Syu Hahn. Ian Karl Maniago and Razeff Altamirano were also on the Teen Ayuyus' first 11, while Taka Borja, Kaden Church, and Joseph Rasa were the substitutes.

As for the Thais' side, midfielders Thanarin Thumsen and Sarawut Saowaros and forward Nattakit Butsing also started the game and made two goals each. Two more starters Arthit Bua-Ngam, Jakkrapong Sanmahung, and substitute Thakdanai Jaihan chipped in one goal apiece.

"The Thais played very technical. They had a lot of short snapping passes and made effective use of their spaces. They weren't pressuring as high as Indonesia, but they were able to capitalize later on in the second half of the game," CNMI team manager Rodwealth Espana said.

"As expected, Thai fans cheered the home team nonstop for 90 minutes. Nevertheless, we surprised the home crowd, showing them that an island of a little over 55,000 is able to concede only 3 goals in the first half to a country of nearly 69 million people and where soccer is the No. 1 sport. We are extremely happy with our players' performance," Espana added.

After their match against Thailand, the Teen Ayuyus took a rest yesterday and will resume their campaign in the qualifier today when they take on Laos at 4pm (7pm Saipan time).

"Laos is another strong team with more international experience. Please support the boys. We always tell them before each game that their family and friends are watching their game live. They're not only playing for themselves or for the coaches, but also for the whole CNMI," Espana said.

Laos lost to Timor-Leste, 2-5, during the Group G opener. Timor-Leste then missed a perfect record when it fell to early leader Indonesia, 1-3. Indonesia will face Thailand in the other match today with the former's win giving them a spot to next year's finals.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	86	64	.573	—
New York	83	67	.553	3
Tampa Bay	73	77	.487	13
Baltimore	73	78	.483	13½
Toronto	70	80	.467	16

Central Division

x-Cleveland	93	57	.620	—
Minnesota	78	72	.520	15
Kansas City	73	76	.490	19½
Detroit	62	88	.413	31
Chicago	60	89	.403	32½

West Division

x-Houston	91	58	.611	—
Los Angeles	76	73	.510	15
Seattle	74	76	.493	17½
Texas	73	76	.490	18
Oakland	67	83	.447	24½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

x-Washington	90	59	.604	—
Miami	70	80	.467	20½
Atlanta	67	81	.453	22½
New York	65	85	.433	25½
Philadelphia	59	91	.393	31½

Central Division

Chicago	83	66	.557	—
Milwaukee	80	70	.533	3½
St. Louis	77	72	.517	6
Pittsburgh	68	83	.450	16
Cincinnati	66	84	.440	17½

West Division

z-Los Angeles	96	54	.640	—
Arizona	87	64	.576	9½
Colorado	82	68	.547	14
San Diego	67	83	.447	29
San Francisco	58	93	.384	38½

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	19	17
Buffalo	1	1	0	.500	24	21
New England	1	1	0	.500	63	62
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0	.000	32	66

South

Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	53	42
Jacksonville	1	1	0	.500	45	44
Houston	1	1	0	.500	20	38
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	22	62

North

Baltimore	2	0	0	1.000	44	10
Pittsburgh	2	0	0	1.000	47	27
Cincinnati	0	2	0	.000	9	33
Cleveland	0	2	0	.000	28	45

West

Denver	2	0	0	1.000	66	38
Oakland	2	0	0	1.000	71	36
Kansas City	2	0	0	1.000	69	47
L.A. Chargers	0	2	0	.000	38	43

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	50	44
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	36	45
Washington	1	1	0	.500	44	50
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	13	43

South

Atlanta	2	0	0	1.000	57	40
Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	32	6
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	29	7
New Orleans	0	2	0	.000	39	65

North

Detroit	2	0	0	1.000	59	33
Minnesota	1	1	0	.500	38	45
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	40	43
Chicago	0	2	0	.000	24	52

West

Seattle	1	1	0	.500	21	26
L.A. Rams	1	1	0	.500	66	36
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	39	48
San Francisco	0	2	0	.000	12	35

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rites of Passage 22: Rampage

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

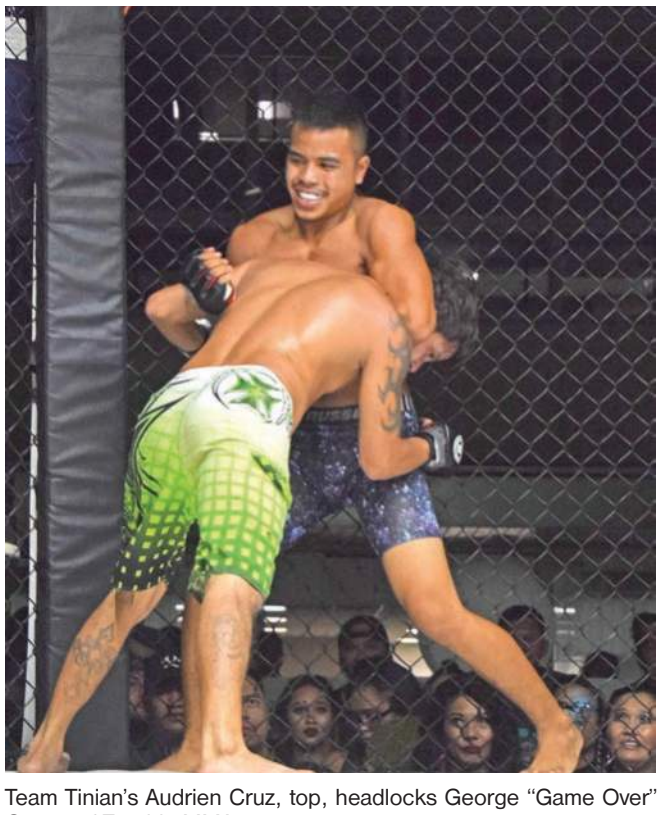
Team Tinian's William "Pretty Boy" King, left, and Luis "TwoTwo" Litulumar of TrenchTech pose for photographers after their K1 exhibition match in last Friday's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage held at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.

Independent fighter Railey Miwata, left, waits for Guam Muay Thai's Derrick Evangelista's next move in their K1 undercard match.

Luta Top Team's L.D. Ogo, left, reacts after referee Mike Ulloa, center, raises the arm of Team Tinian's Perry Mundo, declaring the latter the winner of the bout.

Steel Athletics' Jaybo Frederick, left, prepares to attack the defense of Alejandro "The Outlaw" Tebit of Ghasias Brothers Fight Club.

Korean Top Team's Sung Kwon Kim, bottom, and Patrick Ungcangco of Steel Athletics Guam try to outwrestle each other.



Team Tinian's Audrien Cruz, top, headlocks George "Game Over" Grover of Zombie MMA.

Team Ace MMA and 43-year-old Sang Hyun Park, right, tries to push Rota native Juan "Hot Pocket" Lizama of Steel Athletics Guam.

Jacky Ocala, one of three ring girls, carries the Trench Warz lightweight championship belt. Lo Itibus and Eileen Pua were the other round girls.

Red Sox keep 3-game lead against Yankees

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Sports

Stafford throws for 2 TDs as Lions beat Giants

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CNMI yields less goals to Thailand

ASIAN FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION PHOTO

The CNMI Boys U16 National Team's Joshua Mendez, center, reaches in for the ball to deny possession to Thailand's Arthit Bua-Ngam, while the former's teammate Ian Karl Maniago steps in for help defense during their game in the Group G of the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers last Monday at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U16 Boys National Team surprised Thailand with a much improved defense during the first half of their game in the Group G of the AFC U16 Championship 2018 Qualifiers last Monday at the Rajamangala Stadium in Bangkok.

Eager to assert their might over the Teen Ayuyus, who suffered a 0-18 loss at the hands of Indonesia, and please the adoring home crowd, the Thais were denied from putting on a show early as the hosts did not score until the 30th minute.

Midfielder Punnawat Chote-Jirachaithon ended Thailand's growing frustrations with just 15 minutes in the first half off a shot from the corner. The hosts went on to win their opening match in the qualifier, 10-0. Although they scored in twin digits, the Thais were held to three goals in the first half—three less than what the CNMI yielded against Indonesia last Saturday.

With the Teen Ayuyus limiting Thailand gunners to three goals in the first half, coach Salvador Valero Garcia can't help but give praises to the visiting squad's defense.

"From the first match Northern Mariana Islands played against Indonesia, they have improved a lot and it was difficult to play against them in this game. This is why we didn't play well in the first half," Garcia was quoted as saying in the story posted at the Asian Football Confederation website.

CNMI head coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita also had kind towards to his squad.

"We studied the Thai game during the AFF U15 tournament (where Thailand finished as runner-up). Thailand is a strong team, but we kept the score down in the first half which is good for us. I am pleased

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Green Minded, Spigen top foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Spigen and Green Minded earned contrasting victories in their debuts in the 2nd Invitational IT&E/Blue Haus Friendly Basketball League last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Spigen withstood White Haus' fourth-quarter rally for an 89-82 win in the first game, while Green Minded coasted past Team Sawi in the second match, 86-62.

White Haus, which led in the first half, found itself staring a 59-71 deficit at the end of the third quarter, forcing the team to fight back in the fourth behind Darwin Barbo and Jun Tabora's baskets. However, Spigen steadied the ship in the homestretch by knocking down clutch free throws.

Spigen scored its last 5 markers from the 15-footline with Mike Umali making four of them and Lerio Pagarao having a split. Pagarao ended up tallying 7 points in the final canto, while Umali had 9 to foil White Haus' comeback bid.

Umali also led Spigen's offense

See GREEN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Green Minded's Roberto Dela Cruz, left, unloads a running shot in front of Team Sawi's J.R. Concepcion during the fourth quarter of their game in the IT&E/Blue Haus caging last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Manglona: I'm always ready

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Like most mixed martial arts warriors, Jordan "The Machine" Manglona doesn't stop training even though he's not preparing for an upcoming fight. It's his way of staying in shape and in fighting form so that when he gets the call, he's ready for war.

Manglona, despite his absence from the eight sides for more than a year, showed his readiness in last week's Rites of Passage 22: Ram-

See MANGLONA on Page 26

JON PEREZ

Jordan "The Machine" Manglona, left, answers questions from ring announcer L.J. Castro during last Friday's Rites of Passage 22: Rampage held at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe.